Hafa Adai!

Saipan Tribune

CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER

Volume XVIII, Issue No. 271 | SATURDAY SEPTEMBER 27, 2008 | www.saipantribune.com 50¢

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OPINION METER

This week's poll:
Do you believe the federal government should step in and help resolve the crisis surrounding CUC?

Let your voice be heard! Go to www.saipantribune.com to cast your vote.

INSIDE

Breakdown
A Republican rebellion stalled government efforts Thursday to avoid economic meltdown.

BUSINESS...Page 9

Tainted Milk
More than two million kilograms of milk imported from China were able to enter the Philippines this year.

MAHARLIKA...Page 13

'Equus' Opens
'Equus,' starring a nude Daniel Radcliffe, opens on Broadway.

LIFE & STYLE...Page 20

"By today's disaster emergency declaration, I intend to immediately protect the citizens of the CNMI and its many visitors by maintaining a viable and operational Commonwealth Health Center hospital."
—Gov. Benigno R. Fitial

CHC pharmacy under a state of emergency

By AGNES E. DONATO and KRISTI EATON
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kristi_eaton@saipantribune.com
REPORTERS

Gov. Benigno R. Fitial has placed the in-house pharmacy at the Commonwealth's only hospital under a state of emergency to prevent it from closing due to the lack of licensed pharmacists.

The emergency declaration is intended to allow the Commonwealth Health Center to recruit a pharmacist for a salary over the existing $50,000 cap. It will remain in effect for 30 days, or sooner if the Legislature passes a law exempting pharmacists from the salary cap.

"By today's disaster emer-

See CHC on Page 4

WaMu biggest bank to fail in US history

By MARCY GORDON, SARA LEPRO and MADLEN READ
AP BUSINESS WRITERS

NEW YORK (AP)—As the debate over a $700 billion bank bailout rages on in Washington, one of the nation's largest banks—Washington Mutual Inc.—has collapsed

See WAMU on Page 4

AP
Pedestrians walk past the Washington Mutual branch at the WaMu Center in Seattle.

Key details of bipartisan bailout plan

Main elements of a $700 billion bailout for the financial industry that makes several substantial changes to President Bush's request:

■ Authorize $700 billion for the government to purchase troubled assets and buy equity in distressed financial firms.

■ Require the Treasury Department to make rules to prevent excessive compensation for executives whose companies benefit from the rescue.

See KEY on Page 4

Federal court stays Miura extradition

As lawyers bring court battle to district court

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The federal court yesterday afternoon granted Kazuyoshi Miura's emergency motion to stay the Superior Court's decision for his extradition to California where he is facing murder and conspiracy to commit murder charges over the killing of his wife in 1981.

Miura

This developed as Miura's lawyers filed the emergency motion as well as a petition for habeas corpus before the U.S. District Court for the NMI yesterday at 4:45pm.

WHAT'S NEXT

U.S. District Court for the NMI chief judge Alex R. Munson sets hearing for Monday, Sept. 29, 2008, at 9am.

Miura's lawyers decided to take the extradition case to the federal court shortly after the CNMI Supreme Court yesterday afternoon denied another

See FEDERAL on Page 4

NEW RESORT INVESTOR JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ
Gov. Benigno R. Fitial, Department of Public Lands Secretary John S. Del Rosario, Flame Sako Resort and Spa president and CEO Kang Dae-Sik and other officials gather for a photo shortly after the signing of the provisional lease agreement at the Governor's conference room on Capital Hill yesterday. ***See story on Page 2.***

New $50M-$60M resort plan unveiled. **PAGE 2**
DPL investigates the sale of Rota Resort. **PAGE 3**

Local

New $50M-$60M resort plan unveiled

Plans call for a 9-floor, 357-room resort on 10 hectares of land

ROTA CASINO GAMING COMMISSION (RCGC)
Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
P.O. Box 1547 ROTA, MP 96950

Pursuant to the Open Government Act, the RCGC's regular monthly meeting will be held as follows:

DATE : **Tuesday, September 30, 2008**
TIME : **3:00 P.M.**
LOCATION : **Antonio Camacho Atalig Memorial Annex Building, Tatachog, Rota**

AGENDA:

Call To Order
Roll Call
Adoption of Agenda
Adoption of Minutes
Chairman's Report
Old Business
Personnel Matters
New Business
Procurement
Miscellaneous
Adjournment

At anytime during meeting the commission may move to executive session.

/s/ Diego M. Songao
Chairman

September 24, 2008
Date

COMMONWEALTH DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY
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PUBLIC NOTICE
SEPTEMBER 27, 2008

PURSUANT TO PUBLIC LAW 8-41, THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION DIVISION (DCD) OF THE COMMONWEALTH DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY THRU ITS CHAIRWOMAN, HEREBY INFORMS THE GENERAL PUBLIC THAT THE DCD BOARD OF DIRECTORS WILL HOLD A REGULAR MEETING ON TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 30, 2008 AT 10:00 A.M. THE MEETING WILL BE HELD AT THE CDA CONFERENCE ROOM, SECOND FLOOR, WAKIN'S BUILDING, CHALAN PALE ARNOLD ROAD, SAIPAN. THE AGENDA FOR THIS MEETING IS AS FOLLOWS:

AGENDA

I. PRELIMINARY MATTERS
1. Roll Call
II. ADOPTION OF AGENDA
III. ADOPTION OF MINUTES
IV. PUBLIC COMMENTS
V. REPORTS
1. Financial Report – DCD
2. Loan Reports
   a. Approved Loans & Bank Guarantees
   b. Bank Guarantees Status' Report
   c. Loan Status/Receivables Report
   d. DCD Performing Loan Summary/Delinquency & Litigation
VI. OLD BUSINESS
VII. NEW BUSINESS
1. New Loan Applications/Borrower's Requests
VIII. OTHER MATTERS
IX. ADJOURNMENT

All interested persons are welcome to attend and to submit written or oral testimony on the above agenda items. (Note: Pursuant to Public Law 8-41, Section 13(a)(7) and Section 13(c), the Board may vote to meet in executive session)

/s/ MARCIE M. TOMOKANE
Chairwoman, DCD Board of Directors

Gov. Benigno Fitial approved a Korean firm's plans to build a multi-million dollar resort on Saipan's beachfront Friday, signing a provisional lease that now requires approval from local lawmakers.

In a press conference, Fitial and Department of Public Lands Secretary John S. Del Rosario presented plans for the Flame Sako Resort and Spa with Kang Dae Sik, the resort's president. The plans call for a 9-floor, 357-room resort on 10 hectares of land on a site north of Palms Resort Saipan. The project carries an estimated price tag of $50 million to $60 million, Del Rosario said.

Next week, Fitial plans to meet with staff at local government agencies on the project and how to move it ahead quickly. Due to the size of the property, he added, the lease will require approval from the Legislature.

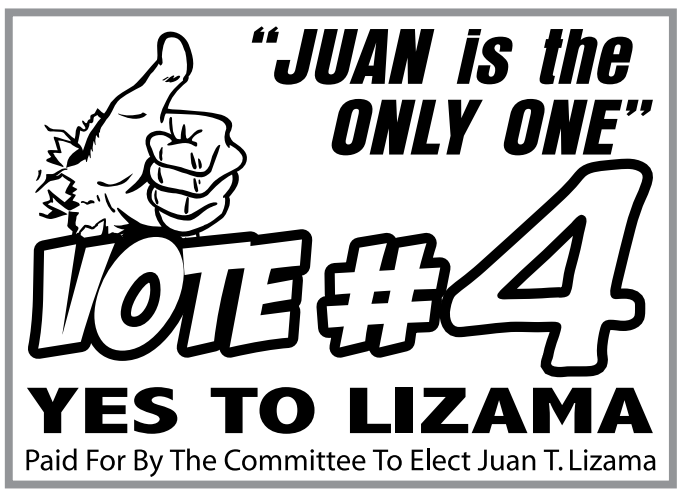
"We're ready to support Mr. Kang and the Flame Sako," Fitial said.

Speaking through a translator, Kang said the company plans to move forward with the project as soon as possible.

"We are really happy and we appreciate you time and concern," Kang said. "We will work to start this project here on Saipan."

According to Del Rosario, the construction project will move forward in phases and the Sako investors have put forward the initial financing necessary for the first part of the deal and the administrative costs linked to it.

The new resort plans come after DPL last month canceled a lease with Win DNC, a company that also had plans to build a resort in the same area as the Sako proposal. DPL said the company had violated its lease and failed to provide the necessary "good faith" financing for the project. ***(Stefan Sebastian)***



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Developmental Disabilities Basic State Grant Program
Bldg. 1312 Capitol Hill _ P.O. BOX 502565, Saipan, MP 96950
Tel: (670) 664-7000 _ Fax: (670) 664-7030

NOTICE OF SPECIAL MEETING

Pursuant to Public Law 8-41, Section 12, the Council Members of the CNMI Council on Developmental Disabilities, through its Interim Chairman, is hereby giving a notice that a Special Meeting is to take place on Friday, October 3, 2008 at 9:00 AM in the conference room of the CNMI Council on Developmental Disabilities, Saipan.

AGENDA

I. Welcoming Remarks
II. Roll Call
III. Establishment of Quorum
IV. Executive Session
V. Open Session
VI. Next Meeting
VII. Closure

In accordance to the American with Disabilities Act (ADA), individuals who wish to attend this meeting and require special accommodations are requested to call the Council 3 days in advance at 664-7000. The public is welcome to submit written or oral comments regarding the agenda above.

/s/ Derek Duenas, Interim Chairperson

DPL investigates the sale of Rota Resort

By STEFAN SEBASTIAN
stefan_sebastian@saipantribune.com
BUSINESS EDITOR

Public lands officials have launched an investigation into the recent sale of the Rota Resort & Country Club after learning the property had changed hands without the local government's approval.

Department of Public Lands chief John S. Del Rosario on Friday said his staff is examining the details of the sale, a move that comes in the aftermath of an order by the CNMI Attorney General's Office directing the resort's new owners—a branch of the Guam-based firm JMSH LLC—to vacate the property or face a lawsuit.

However, Del Rosario declined to give details on the issue during a press conference, saying it "involves an active investigation."

"We're reviewing everything we need to know," he added.

The AGO order, issued Monday, points to a report in the *Saipan Tribune* on the resort's sale—which followed a report in the *Pacific Daily News*—and says that if the report is accurate, the resort's new owners are trespassing on public lands.

The order prompted an outcry among lawmakers, who said the new investment at the resort is crucial to reviving Rota's suffering tourism industry.

The resort's sale came after JMSH had already poured millions into the resort to revive its operation. The company has also launched a major campaign to boost tourism through chartered airline service to the island from Korea and planned a series of renovations to attract new visitors.

DPL controls the property on which the resort sits.

The resort's management has not responded to several requests for comment on the matter. Meanwhile, staff at the resort said their management has yet to give them any notice of a closure and they are continuing to take reservations.

Charles Reyes, spokesman for Gov. Benigno Fitial defended the AGO's order this week, saying the office is merely enforcing the law.

JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ

Hundred of students and other guests listen to the speakers during the first day of the 3rd annual Chamorro Conference at the Saipan World Resort yesterday.

USCG holds rescue operation for 2 injured carrier personnel

The Search and Rescue Group Guam is coordinating a medical evacuation for two male crewmembers who are in critical condition after being involved in an accident on board an ocean-going bulk carrier.

According to a U.S. Coast Guard statement issued yesterday, the accident occurred late Thursday night while the ship was 750 nautical miles north of Saipan.

A U.S. Air Force aircraft with four parajumpers will take off from Kadena Air Force Base in Japan to assess the situation and provide urgent medical care.

This evening, when the vessel is 150 nautical miles from Saipan, Guam-based Navy Helicopter Sea Combat Squadron Two Five plans to launch two helicopters from Guam to hoist the injured crewmembers and then fly them to Naval Hospital Guam for urgent care.

Air Force, Coast Guard and Navy personnel are diligently working together to save the lives of these two mariners in dire need.

No further details or updates were available as of press time. ***(USCG)***

Chamorro conference gets underway

By KRISTI EATON
kristi_eaton@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

More than 300 people attended the first day of the 3rd annual Chamorro Conference held at the Saipan World Resort yesterday.

A traditional Chamorro shell horn opened the ceremony. The mayors of the CNMI islands attended the conference, as well as former Guam House of Representatives member Robert Underwood, and Johnny Sablan, representing Guam Gov. Felix Camacho.

Howard Macaranas, one of the organizers of the event, said there was discussion of possible legislation that could help protect the language. Macaranas said he would like to see a law requiring every government agency to employ at least one person fluent in Chamorro.

The Public School System's bilingual education program was also a discussion topic. Macaranas said he would like to see the Public School System expand the program to include textbooks in Chamorro.

PSS Education Commissioner said students from kindergarten through 8th grade are required to attend a Chamorro or Carolinian class.

"I believe language and cultural heritage really sustains a community," she said. "When language and culture is strong, it has an impact on the social and economic situation."

It is estimated that more than 60,000 people speak Chamorro.

The conference continues today.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Happy birthday greetings go out to Heather Pangilinan, who is celebrating her birthday today, Sept. 27! Greetings come from your ninang Susan.

CHAMBER COORDINATOR

The Saipan Chamber of Commerce has a new coordinator, Florentina "Tina" Salas. She has extensive accounting experience, most recently as an accountant at the Northern Marianas College. Salas started with the Chamber yesterday. Members will have the opportunity to meet Salas at next Wednesday's general membership meeting at the Pacific Islands Club.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Lawmakers looking for new LB chief

Legislative leaders are looking to appoint a new director for the Legislative Bureau, with the term of the serving director set to expire on Tuesday.

The contract of LB director Joaquin Omar will end on Sept. 30, 2008. As of yesterday, no announcement has been made as to whether he will be reappointed for another one-year term or a new director will be named.

In a memorandum to House members, Speaker Arnold I. Palacios told Vice Speaker Joseph Deleon Guerrero to working with the Senate leadership on picking a new director.

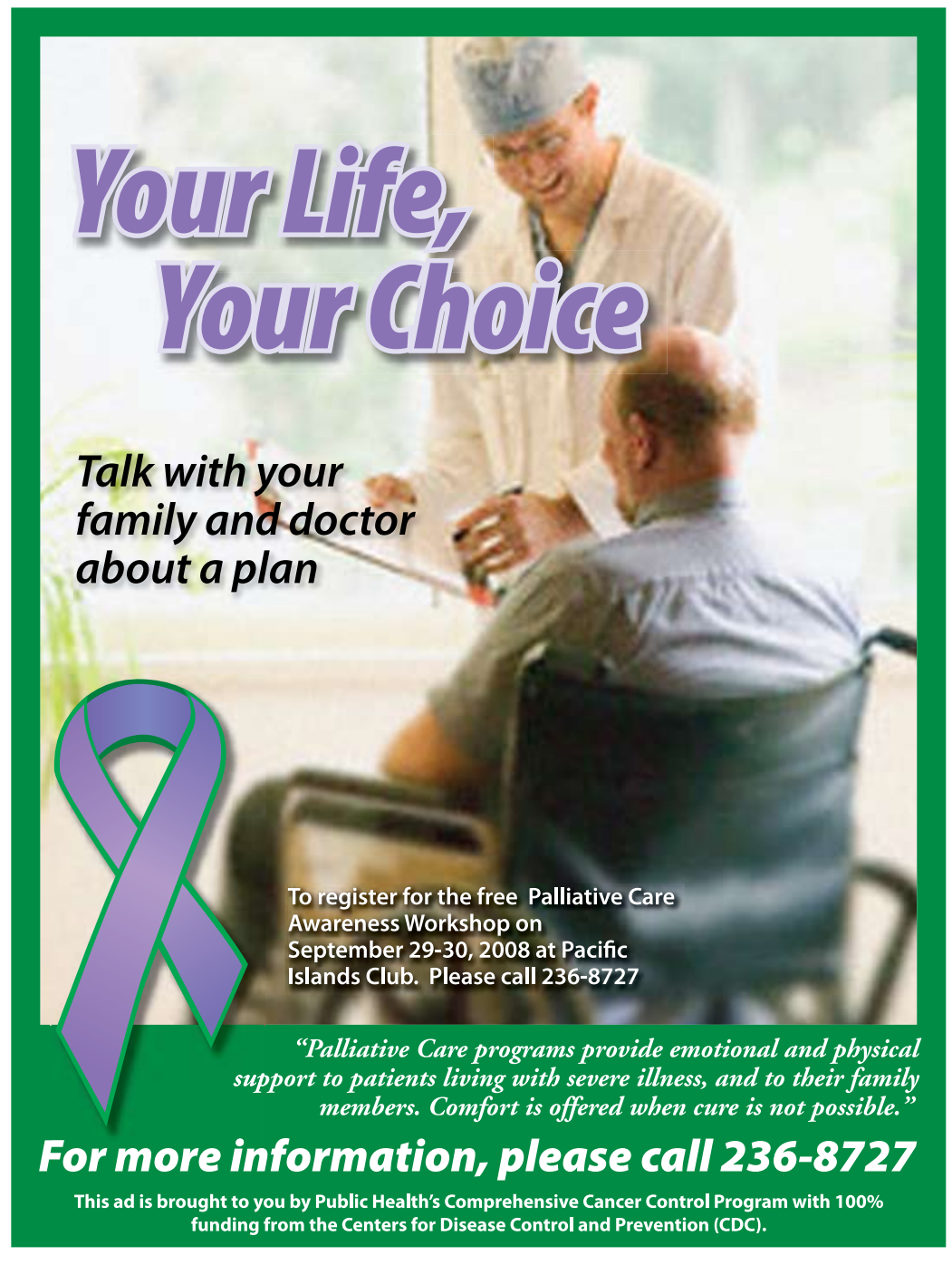
"Because time is of the essence in this matter, I urge the vice speaker to immediately convene a dialogue with the House leadership and the Senate leadership on the selection and appointment of the Legislative Bureau director," Palacios said.

Shortly after taking office earlier this year, the House and Senate leaders moved to replace Omar. But after being deadlocked for weeks on selecting a replacement, they decided to let Omar finish his contract.

The senators had wanted deputy director Glenna SP Reyes to replace Omar, saying she has hands-on experience and is already doing much of the work administering the legislative bureau.

The House leadership had opposed the Senate's pick, saying it was tainted by nepotism. Reyes is the wife of Senate President Pete P. Reyes. The Republican-dominated House had wanted Ed Tenorio, a Cabinet member in the Babauta administration, for the job.

The bureau director is appointed by the leadership of both houses of the Legislature. He or she may be removed with or without cause by the majority of the members of each house. ***(Agnes E. Donato)***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Mobil funds FMI's drainage cleanup plan

For the third year in a row, Mobil Oil Marianas Inc. has agreed to fund a proposal by the Friends of the Marianas Inc. to conduct a drainage cleanup project on Saipan.

FMI president and chair Marites Aquino Castillo said that Mobil's continued support of their organization's efforts is testament to FMI's demonstrated ability to carry out cleanup projects on Saipan in a rapid and efficient manner.

"The FMI is very grateful to Mobil for this continued support," said Castillo.

The FMI project is located along Isa Drive, from Airport Road up to the Botanical Garden.

Beginning this weekend, FMI members will start cleaning all of the drainage areas connected to the Isla Drive, beginning from the Botanical Garden area.

"We ask the public to be extra vigilant in the Garden area and please watch out for the volunteers who are cleaning and clearing these areas of our island," said Castillo.

All members of the public are invited to assist in the efforts this Sunday beginning at 8am at the Botanical Garden. ***(PR)***

CHC

From Page 1

gency declaration, I intend to immediately protect the citizens of the CNMI and its many visitors by maintaining a viable and operational Commonwealth Health Center hospital," the declaration states.

CHC lost its head pharmacist, Anthony Raho, after Fitial did not renew his contract earlier this year, leaving the in-patient pharmacy with only one pharmacist and forcing it to close on the weekends.

The last full time pharmacist employed at the hospital, Lorraine Liwiski, is leaving on Oct. 8, 2008; she has taken a job with a private pharmacy on Saipan.

Low salary cap

CHC cannot easily hire replacements because there are very few licensed pharmacists in the Commonwealth and the $50,000 salary limitation is too low to attract them to work for the hospital.

Earlier this year, the Legislature passed a bill lifting the salary ceiling for pharmacists. But Fitial vetoed the measure because of add-on provisions that would have raised the salary cap for unspecified professionals under the legislative and judicial branches.

Citing advice from Health Secretary Joseph Kevin Villagomez, the governor said that unless one or more pharmacists are immediately hired to run the pharmacy, "the health care operations of CHC will be severely curtailed and patient lives will be put at extreme risk."

'We just can't compete'

CHC pharmacist Raho, who had just been re-hired, said yesterday that the low salary cap for pharmacists and other heath care professionals continues to hinder the CNMI's health care system.

Raho, who has worked at the pharmacy for 12 years, said the salary cap is inhibiting the hospital from hiring pharmacists.

In the U.S., entry-level pharmacists start at a salary of $105,000 to $120,000, he said.

"It's a no brainer, we just can't compete," he said, adding that the United States is also experiencing a lack of pharmacists but pharmacies are addressing the situation by raising salaries 5 to 6 percent.

Even locally, he said, a pharmacist can work at a private pharmacy and make 60 percent more. The other CHC pharmacist, Liwiski, is leaving in a few weeks to work at PHI, the private pharmacy located within CHC. The last six CHC pharmacists left due to salary issues, noting that there should be a minimum of three pharmacists working, but since 2004 there have only been one or two.

No contract yet

For now, Raho said he is only staying for 30 days, and he has yet to sign a contract. Without a pharmacist, drugs can't be managed, dispensed or evaluated, he said. CHC could also end up spending more money because, for example, cancer patients would have to be sent off-island if they couldn't get the necessary medications, and there would be no one to scrutinize the differential costs between pill brands.

But Raho said he feels health care in the CNMI is not where it should be, and the politicians and the government bureaucracy are to blame.

"I feel elected officials are elected to provide services to the community… elected officials have a responsibility to provide assistance to the community," he said. "The slow manner of bureaucracy is frustrating."

Priority

Unfortunately, Saipan is going through financial difficulties and there is a lot of infighting, he said, but health care must be a priority.

"Yes, people are getting inconvenienced by [the power outages]. It's affecting their livelihoods, but is it really affecting their health in life- and death-situations?" he asked.

Lynn Tenorio, Deputy Secretary for Public Health Administration, said she is pleased that Fitial declared a state of emergency.

"Naturally, we are pleased that the Governor addressed the concerns the Secretary had relayed with respect to the health and well-being of the patients at CHC. The need to protect patients necessitates retaining Mr. Raho, who has been an incredible asset to CHC and its patients," she said in an e-mail.

FEDERAL

From Page 1

emergency motion for a stay of Miura's extradition order.

In a one-page order, U.S. District Court for the NMI chief judge Alex R. Munson said Miura's emergency motion for a stay of extradition is granted until further order of the court.

Munson set a hearing for Monday at 9am. No other information was specified in the order.

In a press conference late afternoon yesterday, Bruce Berline, one of Miura's lawyers, said they immediately filed the petition for habeas corpus because they have information that their client might be extradited to California over the weekend.

Asked whether the Los Angeles Police Department detectives are on their way to Saipan again, Berline said their only information is that Miura might be extradited over the weekend.

The lawyer also admitted that the federal court's deadline to personally file documents is 3:30pm, but that Munson gave them an extra hour to file.

Shortly before Munson's order, chief justice Miguel S. Demapan, associate justice Alexandro C. Castro, and justice pro temp Jesus C. Borja denied another emergency motion for a stay of Miura's extradition and removal.

The justices also denied Miura's request for a temporary three-business day stay of extradition and removal pending his application for habeas corpus to the U.S. District Court for the NMI.

Earlier, the justices affirmed Superior Court associate judge Ramona V. Manglona's decision to extradite Miura to California.

This prompted Miura's lawyers to file again on Wednesday an emergency motion asking the high court to stay the extradition or his removal while he pursues further proceedings in federal court.

But the CNMI government opposed the motion. Assistant attorney general Jeffery Warfield Sr. asserted that the motion should be summarily denied as Miura cannot show any probability of success on the merits.

The California Superior Court is expected to issue a ruling today, Saturday, on Miura's motion to quash the warrant and dismiss the case.

WAMU

From Page 1

under the weight of its enormous bad bets on the mortgage market.

The Federal Deposit Insurance Corp. seized WaMu on Thursday, and then sold the thrift's banking assets to JPMorgan Chase & Co. for $1.9 billion.

Seattle-based WaMu, which was founded in 1889, is the largest bank to fail by far in the country's history. Its $307 billion in assets eclipse the $40 billion of Continental Illinois National Bank, which failed in 1984, and the $32 billion of IndyMac, which the government seized in July.

One positive is that the sale of WaMu's assets to JPMorgan Chase prevents the thrift's collapse from depleting the FDIC's insurance fund. But that detail is likely to give only marginal solace to Americans facing tighter lending and watching their stock portfolios plunge in the wake of the nation's most momentous financial crisis since the Great Depression.

Because of WaMu's souring mortgages and other risky debt, JPMorgan plans to write down WaMu's loan portfolio by about $31 billion—a figure that could change if the government goes through with its bailout plan and JPMorgan decides to take advantage of it.

"We're in favor of what the government is doing, but we're not relying on what the government is doing. We would've done it anyway," JPMorgan's Chief Executive Jamie Dimon said in a conference call Thursday night, referring to the acquisition. Dimon said he does not know if JPMorgan will take advantage of the bailout.

WaMu is JPMorgan Chase's second acquisition this year of a major financial institution hobbled by losing bets on mortgages. In March, JPMorgan bought the investment bank Bear Stearns Cos. for about $1.4 billion, plus another $900 million in stock ahead of the deal to secure it.

JPMorgan Chase is now the second-largest bank in the United States after Bank of America Corp., which recently bought Merrill Lynch in a flurry of events that included Lehman Brothers Holdings Inc. going bankrupt and American International Group Inc., the world's largest insurer, getting taken over by the government.

KEY

From Page 1

- Establish a strong oversight board with authority to halt the program, a special investigator general to monitor it, and regular government audits.
- Require the government to renegotiate mortgages it acquires under the program with the aim of helping borrowers keep their homes.
- Phase in the money for buying troubled assets, with $250 billion available immediately, $100 billion to be released if the Treasury secretary certifies it is needed, and the last $350 billion available with another certification, but subject to a congressional vote to block it. ***(AP)***

JPMorgan also said Thursday it plans to sell $8 billion in common stock to raise capital.

The downfall of WaMu has been widely anticipated for some time because of the company's heavy mortgage-related losses. As investors grew nervous about the bank's health, its stock price plummeted 95 percent from a 52-week high of $36.47 to its close of $1.69 Thursday. On Wednesday, it suffered a ratings downgrade by Standard & Poor's that put it in danger of collapse.

WaMu "was under severe liquidity pressure," FDIC Chairman Sheila Bair told reporters in a conference call.

"For all depositors and other customers of Washington Mutual Bank, this is simply a combination of two banks," Bair said in a statement. "For bank customers, it will be a seamless transition. There will be no interruption in services and bank customers should expect business as usual come Friday morning."

Besides JPMorgan Chase, Wells Fargo & Co., Citigroup Inc., HSBC, Spain's Banco Santander and Toronto-Dominion Bank of Canada were also reportedly possible suitors. WaMu was believed to be talking to private equity firms as well.

The seizure by the government means shareholders' equity in WaMu was wiped out. The deal leaves private equity investors including the firm TPG Capital, which gave WaMu a cash infusion totaling $7 billion this spring, on the sidelines empty handed.

WaMu ran into trouble after it got caught up in the once-booming subprime mortgage business. Troubles then spread to other parts of WaMu's home loan portfolio, namely its "option" adjustable-rate mortgage loans. Option ARM loans offer very low introductory payments and let borrowers defer some interest payments until later years. The bank stopped originating those loans in June.

Problems in WaMu's home loan business began to surface in 2006, when the bank reported that the division lost $48 million, compared with net income of about $1 billion in 2005.

At the start of 2007, following the release of the company's annual financial report, then-CEO Kerry Killinger said the bank had prepared for a slowdown in its housing business by sharply reducing its subprime mortgage lending and servicing of loans. Alan H. Fishman, the former president and chief operating officer of Sovereign Bank and president and CEO of Independence Community Bank, replaced Killinger earlier this month.

Guam Airmen return from deployment

GUAM—Members of the Guam Air National Guard's 254th Services Flight who deployed in support of Operation Enduring Freedom for over 120 days were scheduled to return yesterday, Sept. 26, around 5:40pm at the Guam International Airport via Continental's Flight No. 1. These Airmen provided a number of services such as feeding, lodging, mortuary affairs, recreation and fitness, and protocol duties for a large amount of personnel at the Manas Air Base, Kyrgyz Republic.

With 19 Airmen assigned to Manas Air Base, nine assigned to Ali Al Saleem, Kuwait, and nine assigned to Andersen Air Force Base, this makes it the largest deployment for the 254th Services Flight, where 37 out of it's 42 members deployed at one given time.

Several members arrived Wednesday, and more will return Sept. 26, 27 and 29.

A Welcome Home Ceremony is scheduled to take place at Andersen Air Force Base during the December drill weekend.

Manas Air Base, Kyrgyz Republic, is home to the 376th Air Expeditionary Wing and serves as the premier air mobility hub for the International Security Assistance Force and coalition military operations in Afghanistan.

The wing's round-the-clock missions include aerial refueling, combat airlift and airdrop, aeromedical evacuation and strategic airlift operations. The base also provides support for coalition personnel and cargo transiting in and out of Afghanistan.

Approximately 1,000 military personnel from the United States, Spain and France are assigned to the wing, along with 650 U.S. and host-nation contractor personnel. Coalition aircraft supporting the mission include U.S. KC-135s, Spanish C-130s and French C135FRs.

Additionally, several members of the Air Guard's 254th REDHORSE Squadron are returning home from a deployment to Kuwait. ***(PR)***

Rota hosts third annual cultural celebration

The Rota Department of Community and Cultural Affairs hosted the 3rd Annual Cultural Celebration at the DCCA Cultural Center grounds in Songsong Village on Wednesday, Sept. 24, 2008.

This year's theme—"Coconut Tree in our Culture"—emphasized the variety of uses for this important tree that people call "*The Tree of Life.*"

The event was a collaboration with the Office of Mayor Joseph S. Inos, the hardworking DCCA staff, several community volunteers, the local non-profit organization *Inetnon Atten Atistan Luta* and visiting members of the Guahan Chamorro Nation who arrived for the Sakman "Saina" flying proa's historic seafaring voyage. The proa was supposed to make landfall on Sept. 23. Unfortunately, inclement weather postponed the voyage.

This year saw a one-day celebration that included an essay competition for 3rd to 12th grade students from the Sinapalo Elementary School, Rota Junior High School, Rota High School, Eskuelan San Francisco de Borja, and Grace Christian Academy.

Led by Barrie Toves as master of ceremony, the program took off with the singing of the CNMI and Rota anthems led by Elisa DLC. Taisacan, followed by welcoming remarks from DCCA Resident Director Lourdes T. Manglona.

Rota Mayor Joseph S. Inos delivered brief remarks, emphasizing the significance of the coconut tree to local culture and Rota's image as a tourist destination. Among his office's achievement with respect to accomplishing this year's theme were three consecutive years of "Operation Green Revolution," during which the Rota Mayor's Office planted hundreds of *(haigui)* coconut the past three summers.

Rota's local canoe builder Stan Taisacan facilitated a locally built galaide' for the Chamorro Nation group of Guahan and Luta for demonstration. Stan was also the special guest speaker at the ceremony, delivering a memorable speech about the different parts of the coconut tree and explaining their traditional uses by ancestral Chamorros called *guelo'* and *guela'*. Stan dissected and narrated the Chamorro names of each part of the coconut plant while explaining their cultural uses.

Various presentations on the different uses of the coconut tree such as food processing, clothing, shelter, tools, weapons, arts, handicraft and medicinal purposes were demonstrated by several community participants and members of non-profit organizations Inetnon Atten Atistan Luta and the Chamorro Nation (Rota), highlighting the theme.

The participants had the opportunity to taste the various local foods processed with coconut. They also witnessed live demonstrations.

Four of the sakman's crew—Joe Blas Viloria, Ray Blas Viloria, Mike Palomo and Corrin Blas Villoria—were on island a day prior to Saina's scheduled arrival to participate in the welcoming ceremony on the beach at the Cultural Center. They participated in the cultural celebration event. They wore traditional ancient Chamorro wardrope and demonstrated the use of the *"kulu"* while paddling on one of Rota's locally built *galaide'* alongside the local Chamorro Nation group. They also displayed various traditional arts, handicraft, tools, and weapons they brought from Guahan.

Plans for next year's 4th Annual Cultural Celebration aims for a four-day event to incorporate the first three events. A young author's project is proposed to involve school children to write a book in Chamorro. Topics would be open to the participants' choice.

"The DCCA looks forward to a larger celebration next year with greater participation from the community as well as our neighboring islands including Guahan. This can be achieved with advanced planning and we intend to embark on it after the holiday season with the creation of a planning committee involving stakeholders or representatives from Saipan, Tinian, Guahan, and local community leaders to spearhead the process," said DCCA resident director Lourdes T. Manglona.

DCCA continues to work in collaboration with Inos to enhance knowledge, understanding and appreciation of local culture among the younger generations to promote and preserve the heritage. This year's celebration was funded in part by an ANA grant administered by the Commonwealth Council for Arts & Culture with the assistance of the newly confirmed Department Secretary Mrs. Cecilia Celes.

Others who supported the 3rd Annual Cultural Celebration were the 12th Rota Municipal Council, DPW, DLNR, Commerce, Channel 5 Station, Northern Marianas College-Tatachok Campus, Stan Taisacan and his daughter Elisa DLC. Taisacan, Tita A. Hocog, Eusebio A. Hocog, Beato M. Calvo, Albert S. Toves Jr., Natividad Barcinas, Fermina Blas, Timothy San Nicolas, Terrence Taisacan, Carmen Toves, Rita Atalig, Jennifer Manglona, Donna Toves, Maria K. Mesngon, Albert Sablan Toves, Aging Center and all DCCA staff. ***(PR)***

Opinion

Hafa Adai!
Saipan Tribune
CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER
Volume XVIII, Issue No. 271

Published daily at 2/F CIC Centre,
Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, CNMI
Mailing Address: PMB 34, Box 10001, Saipan, MP, 96950

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EDITORIAL

Beyond the bailout

President Bush kept a curiously low profile as Treasury Secretary Henry Paulson and Federal Reserve Chairman Ben Bernanke pitched a wildly unpopular plan to buy $700 billion in troubled assets from banks and investment firms. It wasn't until Wednesday night that he put the presidential bully pulpit to full use, warning a prime-time audience that dramatic steps are needed because "our entire economy is in danger."

The dearth of White House leadership may explain John McCain's announcement Wednesday that he was suspending his presidential campaign and heading back to Washington. But as appealing as his call for a bipartisan solution may be, we'd rather see McCain continue to stump for votes than inject himself into the negotiations between the administration and congressional leaders—a self-serving move apparently designed in part to give Republican members of Congress political cover to vote for the bailout. We hope McCain and Barack Obama will campaign vigorously and debate Friday, as scheduled.

McCain deserves credit for articulating the gravity of the situation far better than Bush had done up to that point. And both he and Obama have stuck their necks out, politically, in support of the central feature of the bailout: using tax dollars to buy mortgages and securities so toxic that there's no longer a market for them. That's a risky endeavor whose immediate beneficiary will be financial companies that made foolish bets with borrowed money. Those aren't the kind of victims that merit our sympathy.

The credit crisis that the bailout is intended to ease is just one consequence of the collapse of the housing bubble, however. Whoever wins the election in November is still going to have to deal with the roots of the problem, which are the reckless or predatory loans that are defaulting in record numbers. The foreclosure rate continues to grow despite lenders' efforts to rework troubled mortgages, in part because of the legal and financial hurdles preventing them from writing off bad debt and cutting interest rates. Even if McCain and Obama unite with Bush behind a modified version of the bailout bill—one with better oversight of the Treasury's purchases and more assurance that taxpayers will recover as much as possible from the investment—they can and should continue to critique each other's approach to other elements of the problem. They have very different views about the role of government in the economy, after all. This issue—and this campaign—offer Americans the chance to choose.

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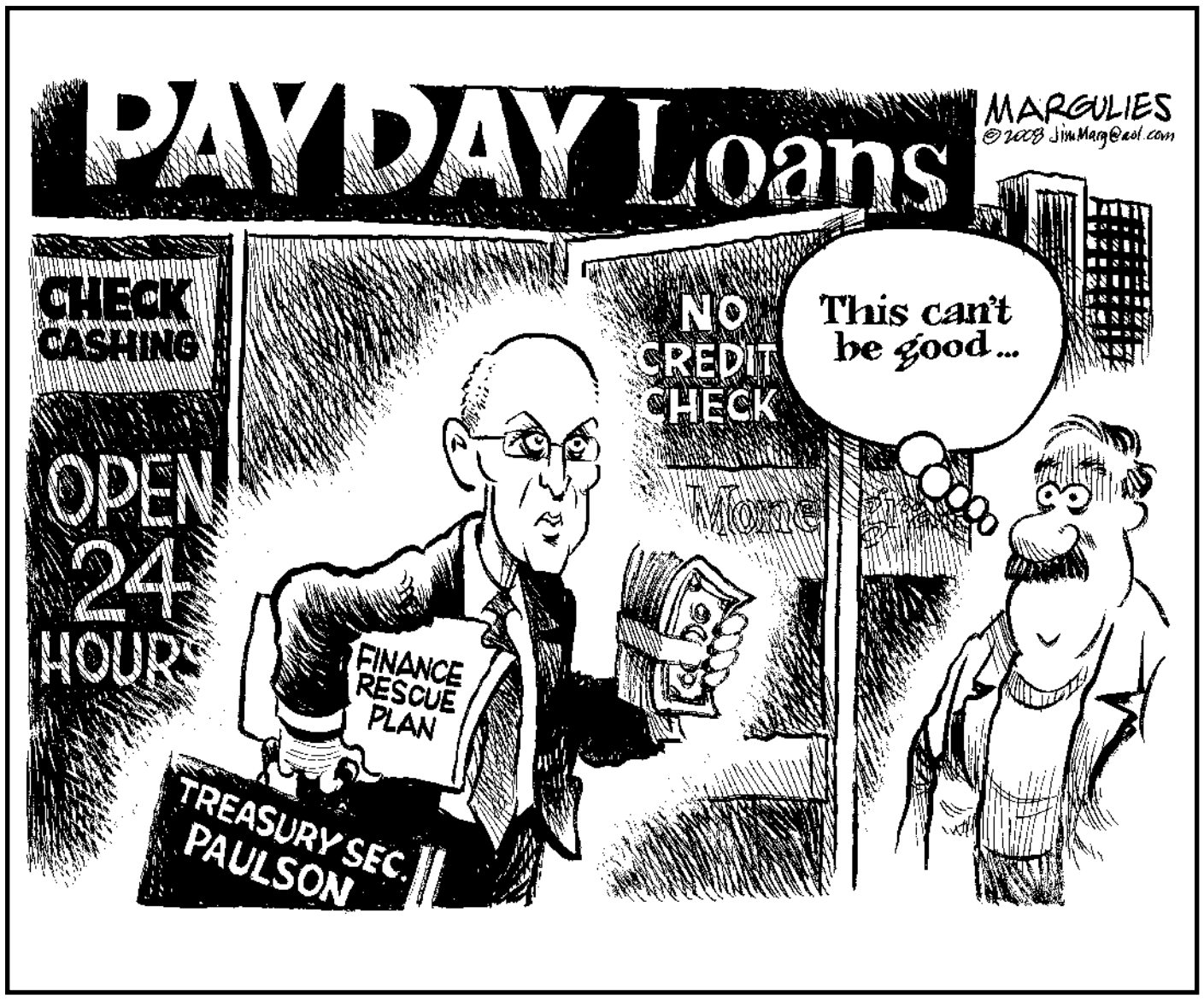


A bailout we don't need

By JAMES K. GALBRAITH
Special to The Washington Post

James K. Galbraith is the author of The Predator State: How Conservatives Abandoned the Free Market and Why Liberals Should Too.

Now that all five big investment banks—Bear Stearns, Merrill Lynch, Lehman Brothers, Goldman Sachs and Morgan Stanley—have disappeared or morphed into regular banks, a question arises.

Is this bailout still necessary?

The point of the bailout is to buy assets that are illiquid but not worthless. But regular banks hold assets like that all the time. They're called "loans."

With banks, runs occur only when depositors panic, because they fear the loan book is bad. Deposit insurance takes care of that. So why not eliminate the pointless $100,000 cap on federal deposit insurance and go take inventory? If a bank is solvent, money market funds would flow in, eliminating the need to insure those separately. If it isn't, the FDIC has the bridge bank facility to take care of that.

Next, put half a trillion dollars into the Federal Deposit Insurance Corp. fund—a cosmetic gesture—and as much money into that agency and the FBI as is needed for examiners, auditors and investigators. Keep $200 billion or more in reserve, so the Treasury can recapitalize banks by buying preferred shares if necessary—as Warren Buffett did this week with Goldman Sachs. Review the situation in three months, when Congress comes back. Hedge funds should be left on their own. You can't save everyone, and those investors aren't poor.

With this solution, the systemic financial threat should go away. Does that mean the economy would quickly recover? No. Sadly, it does not. Two vast economic problems will confront the next president immediately. First, the underlying housing crisis: There are too many houses out there, too many vacant or unsold, too many homeowners underwater. Credit will not start to flow, as some suggest, simply because the crisis is contained. There have to be borrowers, and there has to be collateral. There won't be enough.

In Texas, recovery from the 1980s oil bust took seven years and the pull of strong national economic growth. The present slump is national, and it can't be cured that way. But it could be resolved in three years, rather than 10, by a new Home Owners Loan Corp., which would rewrite mortgages, manage rental conversions and decide when vacant, degraded properties should be demolished. Set it up like a draft board in each community, under federal guidelines, and get to work.

The second great crisis is in state and local government. Just Tuesday, New York Mayor Michael Bloomberg announced $1.5 billion in public spending cuts. The scenario is playing out everywhere: Schools, fire departments, police stations, parks, libraries and water projects are getting the ax, while essential maintenance gets deferred and important capital projects don't get built. This is pernicious when unemployment is rising and when we have all the real resources we need to preserve services and expand public investment. It's also unnecessary.

What to do? Re-enact Richard Nixon's great idea: federal revenue sharing. States and localities should get the funds to plug their revenue gaps and maintain real public spending, per capita, for the next three to five years. Also, enact the National Infrastructure Bank, making bond revenue available in a revolving fund for capital improvements. There is work to do. There are people to do it. Bring them together. What could be easier or more sensible?

Here's another problem: the wealth loss to near-retirees and the elderly from a declining stock market as things shake out. How about taking care of this, with rough justice, through a supplement to Social Security? If you need a revenue source, impose a turnover tax on stocks.

Next, let's think about what the next upswing should try to achieve and how it should be powered. If the 1960s were about raising baby boomers and the '90s about technology, what should the '10s and '20s be about? It's obvious: energy and climate change. That's where the present great unmet needs are.

So, let's use the next few years to plan, mapping out a program of energy conservation, reconstruction and renewable power. Let's get the public sector and the universities working on it. And let's prepare the private sector so that when the credit crunch finally ends, we'll have the firms, the labs, the standards and the talent in place, ready to go.

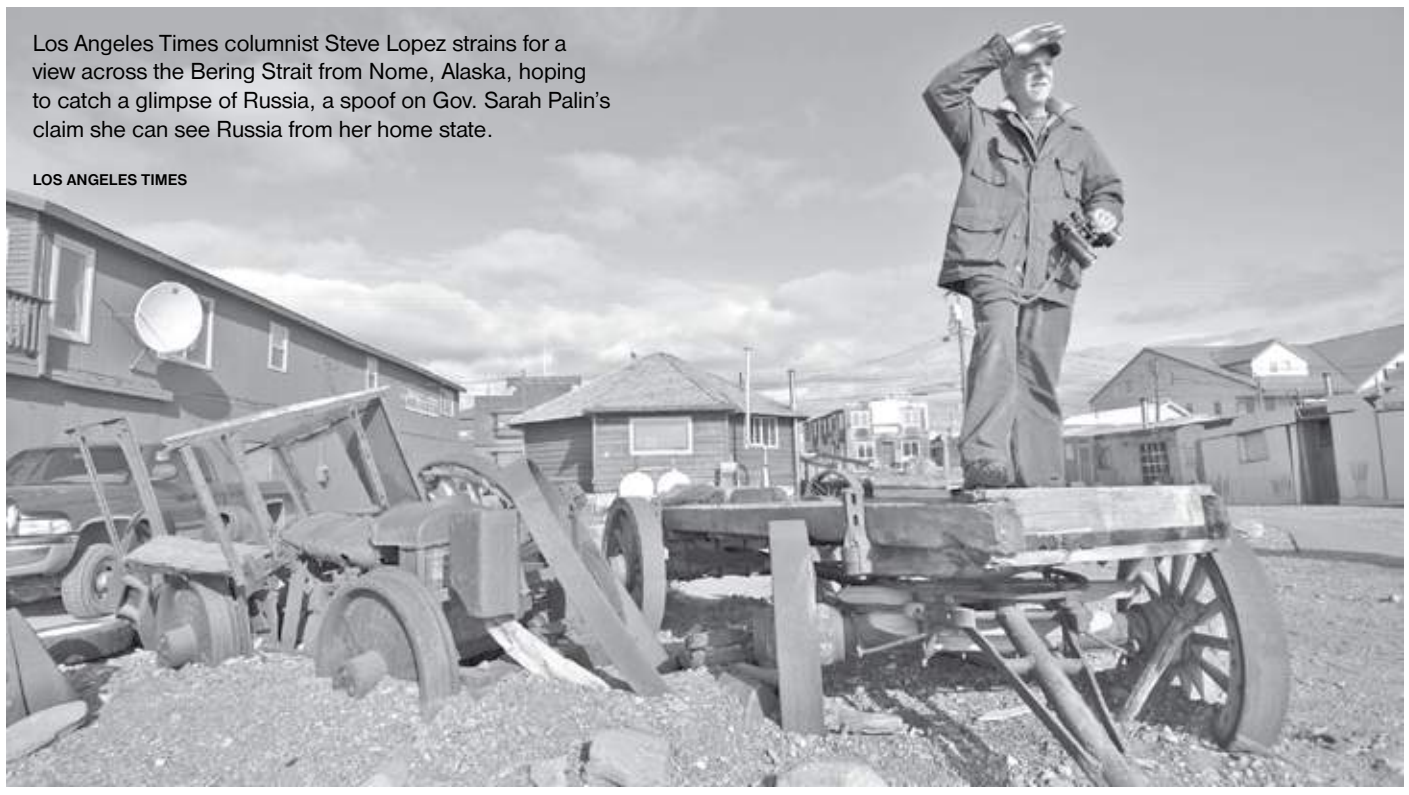
Some will ask if we can afford it. To see the answer, don't look at budget projections. Just look at interest rates. Last week, in the panic, the federal government could fund itself, short term, for free. It could have raised money for 30 years and paid less than 4 percent. That's far less than it cost back in 2000.

No country in this situation is broke, or insolvent, or even in much trouble. For once, Wall Street's own markets speak the truth. The financially challenged customer isn't Uncle Sam. He's up on Wall Street, where deregulation, greed and fraud ran wild.

EDITORIAL POLICY The *Saipan Tribune* welcomes comments on any article, column, editorial, or topic that may be of interest to the public. Letters to the editor must include the name, address, and contact number of the contributor. Letters that are critical in nature should focus on issues, not personalities. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, Century Insurance Building, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

I think I see Russia...no, wait...

By STEVE LOPEZ
(C) 2008, LOS ANGELES TIMES



Los Angeles Times columnist Steve Lopez strains for a view across the Bering Strait from Nome, Alaska, hoping to catch a glimpse of Russia, a spoof on Gov. Sarah Palin's claim she can see Russia from her home state.

LOS ANGELES TIMES

NOME, Alaska—Yes, Nome.

Why not?

I wanted to see the real Alaska, and I was told that would require me to get beyond Anchorage, which is sometimes derided as Los Anchorage because of its enormous population (280,000) and sprawling suburbs.

Nome is way, way, way out west on the Bering Sea, reachable only by plane, boat or dog sled. And as vice presidential candidate and Alaska Gov. Sarah Palin said, in trying to put voters at ease about her foreign affairs credentials, you can see Russia from this part of the state.

So I landed on this edge-of-nowhere burg (pop. 3,600, give or take a few Eskimos) and headed into town expecting to find lots of Palin supporters and perhaps even a few potential foreign policy advisers in the event of a John McCain-Sarah Palin administration.

It turns out lots of people here have seen Russia, but none of them felt qualified to be vice president or take on a Cabinet position. I borrowed some binoculars and got excited when I zoomed in on a large land mass just to the west.

"That's not Russia," said Norbert Thomas, an Inupiat Eskimo who was carving a piece of driftwood near the beach on a balmy and sunny, 50-degree day. "It's Sledge Island."

I tried to talk politics, but Thomas said he wasn't interested. Besides, he said, "If I don't carve, I don't eat."

My first big surprise came when I dropped by the Nome Nugget, which calls itself Alaska's oldest newspaper.

"Rural Alaska is mostly Democratic," said editor and publisher Nancy McGuire.

I wondered, then, how Palin's approval ratings as governor were as high as 80 percent. That's an easy one, McGuire said. The state population is concentrated in and around Anchorage and Wasilla, where she's the hometown girl.

"Shows what they know," said McGuire, a sassy old salt whose shack of an office sits on Front Street, a saloon-studded strip that was teeming with gold-rush prospectors 100 years ago.

Sure, McGuire said, on a crystal-clear day from the nearby village of Wales or from one of the islands, you can see Big Diomede Island in Russia or maybe even the distant cloud cover on the Russian mainland. But it's not like you can smell the Smirnoff or wave to Vladimir Putin.

When McGuire told me that she once flew near Big Diomede for a college class and that her plane was chased away by a Russian MIG, I suggested she might be in line to become secretary of State.

"I'll go for president," she said, noting that she has more Russia experience than Palin. "I've seen it closer."

To be honest, I hadn't expected to find a member of the liberal media elite in the town that serves as terminus for the Iditarod mush trail. McGuire's views are not local gospel, though.

Mary Knodel, who runs the Arctic Trading Post, is a Palin fan, and not just because she's selling the hot biography, "Sarah: How a Hockey Mom Turned Alaska's Political Establishment Upside Down."

"She's a breath of fresh air," said Knodel, calling Palin unafraid to stand up to Big Oil or Alaska's GOP establishment.

And don't worry about foreign affairs, Knodel said.

"If McCain dropped dead tomorrow," she said, Palin would have well-informed advisers, and she'd be able to make "common sense" decisions.

Former Nome Mayor Leo Rasmussen said Palin's selection was news to cheer, in part because it promotes the great state of Alaska.

But if McCain keels over, is she prepared to lead after just two years in charge of a state with roughly one-third the population of Los Angeles' San Fernando Valley?

"Who is prepared to lead this country?" Rasmussen asked, suggesting that the story of Palin's sudden rise from small-town obscurity was practically Lincolnesque.

OK, so I might not have agreed with everyone I met, but I kind of liked this town, whose motto is, "There's no place like Nome." It's a funky, independent-minded burg where it's not uncommon to find people stumbling out of saloons mid-day or talking politics over coffee.

I met lots of no-nonsense people—some of whom still fish, hunt and work the mines. And most of them, whether they support Palin or not, would have preferred that Palin just be herself, rather than make the silly suggestion that she has foreign affairs insights based on geography, or "command experience" simply because her office oversees the state's National Guard.

At Milano's Pizzeria & Sushi, run by Koreans, a table of four was joking about Tina Fey's portrayal of Palin on "Saturday Night Live."

"And Tina Fey said, `I can see Russia from my house,'" one woman giggled.

Lew Tobin can't see Russia from his house, but he visited its Bering Sea town of Provideniya in the 1980s with a local envoy.

"We broke the ice curtain here first," he boasted.

Lew Tobin. Remember the name. If McCain and Palin prevail, they might look to Nome for a new U.S. ambassador to Russia.

But Tobin, who teaches vocational education to villagers, is no Palin supporter.

"We've had so long a time of people who've gotten by on charisma," he said. "We want someone who's smart again."

In her Nugget editorial this week, McGuire took on the Democrats and the Republicans for their packs of lies and twisted truths in the presidential campaign. But she neatly harpooned Palin, contending that her comments on Alaskan energy production were flat wrong and her line about Russia was embarrassing.

"Someone please whack her over the head with a geography book," McGuire wrote.

She ended the editorial with this observation:

"Palin is woefully under-qualified to be anywhere near the Oval Office. It kind of makes you want to go out and find a moose and put lipstick on it."

Bush's love-hate relationship with the UN

By STEPHEN SCHLESINGER
SPECIAL TO THE LOS ANGELES TIMES

Despite his widely reported skepticism about global institutions, it turns out that President Bush's most important partner in the conduct of his foreign policy over the past eight years has proved to be one of the least likely ones: the United Nations.

If you look at the most significant international issues Bush has dealt with in office, it's clear that in one way or another he has, in the end, entrusted virtually all of them to the United Nations for resolution.

His global credo, at least at the start of his term, would not have suggested such an outcome. At the beginning of 2001, Bush regarded the United Nations as the bete noire of U.S. international policy. He did not even appoint an envoy to the world body for nine months after taking office. He voided, withdrew from or scorned numerous global treaties championed by U.N. member-states, such as the International Criminal Court, the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty and the Kyoto Protocol on global warming, among others. Bush administration officials repeatedly said they didn't see why the world's sole superpower should have its hands tied by a big, bureaucratic behemoth like the United Nations.

But the attacks of 9/11 changed that. The United States quickly sought and won the backing of the U.N. Security Council for retaliatory moves against al-Qaida and its Taliban hosts in Afghanistan. Bush hastily appointed a U.N. ambassador and paid up back dues. Subsequently, the United Nations helped set up Afghanistan's new government, assisted in writing its constitution and oversaw its first democratic elections.

Through this period, the administration continued to trash-talk the institution, even while working with it. In 2003, there was a serious run-in when the United States (and a coalition of allies) unilaterally invaded Iraq without Security Council authorization—yet even this sharp violation of the U.N. Charter did not end Bush's engagement. Instead, finding himself isolated in Iraq, Bush swiftly pivoted back to the United Nations to win its support for the occupation. In the aftermath of the invasion, the United Nations oversaw two elections in Iraq, helped craft its new constitution and supervised its referendum on the accord.

Since 2003, apparently sobered by its foreign-policy adventurism, Washington has displayed a pragmatic realism in its relationship with the world body. In 2004, it got U.N. peacekeepers to replace U.S. troops in Haiti; in 2005, it guided a resolution through the council that ultimately led to the expulsion of Syrian troops from Lebanon; in 2006, after a number of delays, it forged a cease-fire in the Israeli-Hezbollah conflict and arranged for U.N. forces to enforce the settlement; in late 2006, it persuaded the United Nations to impose sanctions on North Korea for its nuclear testing. Since 2006, with U.S. urging, the Security Council has slapped three rounds of sanctions on Iran for its surreptitious uranium enrichment activities.

Washington has, in addition, pushed for expanded U.N. peacekeeping missions and worked to augment anti-AIDS measures, among other endeavors.

During his tenure, Bush carefully sidestepped efforts by members of his own party to oust U.N. Secretary-General Kofi Annan. He blocked congressional bills cutting further funding to the United Nations. He allowed the United States to rejoin UNESCO. His daughter even interned at UNICEF, and his wife serves as an honorary ambassador for the U.N. Literacy Decade through UNESCO.

Not all has been roses. The White House has withheld funds related to family-planning programs at the U.N. Population Fund, opposed a U.N. treaty limiting small-arms trafficking, diluted measures to control global warming, tried to fire the head of the International Atomic Energy Agency and derailed other U.N. initiatives.

Nonetheless, Bush has worked directly with the United Nations. He has done so not because he has changed his mind about the institution but because he realized along the way that it is necessary if he wants to gain global legitimacy for his policies. He has acted out of his own political survival needs, seldom admitting to any involvement with the organization.

He neither talks about the body nor praises it. At best, he appears to tolerate it. All his labors there are done by stealth. His silence and his continuing reticence about the United Nations have hurt the institution with the American people and, more important, with Congress, especially over funding issues.

One hopes that the next U.S. president will publicly acknowledge the importance of this body for America's future global relations in order to assure strong continued backing within our country for the United Nations' mission.

Schlesinger is the author of Act of Creation: The Founding of the United Nations.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam Homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

The Weather

5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian

TODAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY
Partly sunny. East wind around 10 mph.	Partly sunny. East southeast wind around 9 mph.	Partly sunny.	Partly sunny.	Mostly sunny.
▲87° ▼76°	▲87° ▼76°	▲87° ▼76°	▲87° ▼76°	▲87° ▼76°

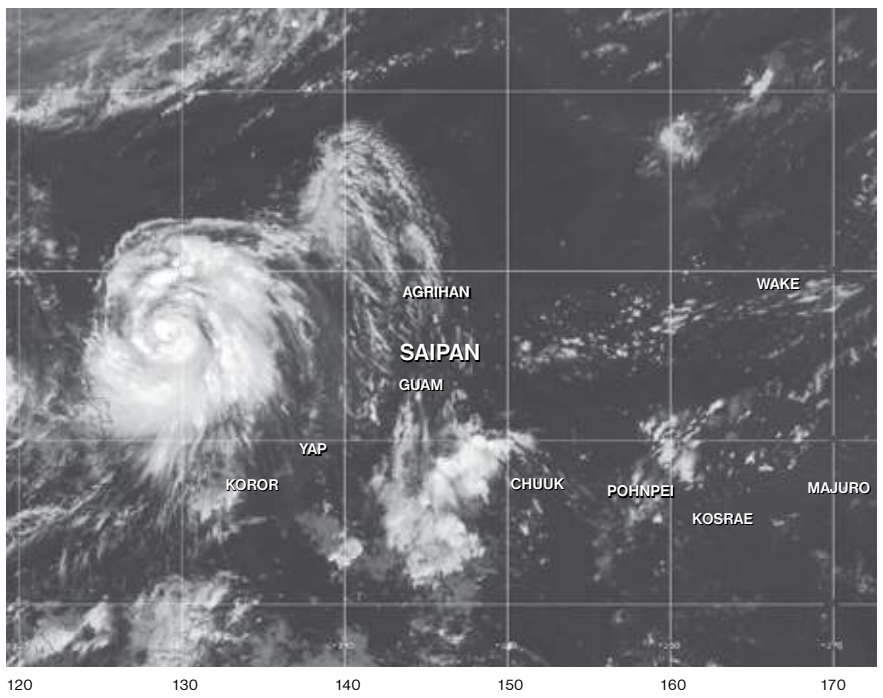
Micronesia

Guam and Rota	Showers	▲86	▼75
Palau	Thunderstorms	▲86	▼77
Yap	Mostly Cloudy	▲87	▼77
Chuuk	Thunderstorms	▲88	▼77
Pohnpei	Thunderstorms	▲86	▼79
Kosrae	Mostly Cloudy	▲88	▼75
Majuro	Thundershowers	▲85	▼74

Around The Globe

Auckland	Showers	▲61	▼55
Beijing	Partly Sunny	▲68	▼45
Hong Kong	Thunderstorms	▲88	▼79
Honolulu	Showers	▲85	▼76
London	Partly Sunny	▲68	▼48
Los Angeles	Cloudy	▲82	▼62
Manila	Thunderstorms	▲84	▼77
Melbourne	Partly Sunny	▲77	▼50
Miami	Thundershowers	▲88	▼75
New York	Rain	▲68	▼60
Osaka	Partly Sunny	▲72	▼61
Paris	Sunny	▲62	▼47
Pusan	Sunny	▲73	▼59
Rome	Cloudy	▲69	▼49
Salem	Sunny	▲74	▼44
San Francisco	Mostly Sunny	▲71	▼54
Seoul	Mostly Sunny	▲66	▼48
Tokyo	Showers	▲75	▼63
Washington, DC	Showers	▲76	▼61

Yesterday's Satellite Image



PICTURE TIME: 1:00PM, FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 26, 2008
Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

Typhoon Jangmi (19W) is centered northwest of Koror near 16N129E and moving northwest at 12 mph with maximum sustained winds of 100 mph. Scattered showers with thunderstorms are occurring between 11N and 22N west of 135E. For more detailed information, see bulletins issued by the JTWC under WMO header WTPN32 PGTW. A weak surface circulation southwest of Chuuk is associated with scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms within 150 miles of a line from 2N145E to 5N145E to 10N149E. Scattered trade-wind showers are found northeast of Pohnpei between 7N and 11N from 158E to 162E.

Tides

Saipan Harbor

12:09AM Today	Low Tide:	0.9 Feet
5:28AM Today	High Tide:	1.8 Feet
12:17PM Today	Low Tide:	0.1 Feet
6:45PM Today	High Tide:	1.9 Feet

Sunrise/Sunset

Today	6:06AM	6:09 PM
Sunday	6:06AM	6:09 PM
Monday	6:07AM	6:08 PM
Tuesday	6:07AM	6:07 PM
Wednesday	6:07AM	6:06 PM

Moonrise/Moonset

Today	3:59AM	4:39PM
Sunday	4:52AM	5:16PM
Monday	5:43AM	5:53PM
Tuesday	6:33AM	6:31PM
Wednesday	7:24AM	7:10PM

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF SEPTEMBER 1, 2008

DEPARTURES

Saipan-Rota

CO 9313	8:30am	9:05am	3,4,7

Saipan-Guam

CO9317	4:00am	4:50am	Daily
CO9597	8:30am	9:20am	1,2,5,6
CO9313	8:30am	10:00am	3,4,7 via Rota
CO9601	12:30pm	1:20pm	Daily
CO9603	3:30pm	4:20pm	Daily
CO9605	6:30pm	7:20pm	Daily
CO9599	9:30pm	10:20pm	Daily

Saipan-Narita

NW 099	5:00am	7:30am	Daily
NW 078	8:55am	2:00pm	Daily
NW 075	4:55pm	7:25pm	Daily

Saipan-Osaka

NW 083	4:20pm	6:55pm	Daily

Saipan-Nagoya

NW 078	8:55am	11:35am	Daily

Saipan-Seoul

OZ 604	2:20am	6:00am	1
OZ 604	2:50am	6:30am	2,3,4,5,6,7
OZ 606	3:30pm	7:00pm	2,4,6,7

Saipan-Busan

OZ 608	3:50am	7:20am	1,5

Guam-Manila

CO 891	6:00am	10:30am	3 via Yap and Koror
CO 893	5:50pm	9:10pm	5 via Koror
CO 933	7:00pm	8:40pm	Daily
PR 111	6:00am	7:45am	1,2,4,6,7

Saipan-Guanzhou

CZ 3008	5:00am	8:00am	2,6

Guam-Rota

CO 9598	10:15am	10:45am	1,2,6

ARRIVALS

Rota-Saipan

CO 9598	11:10am	11:45am	1,2,6

Guam-Saipan

CO 9316	2:30am	3:20am	Daily
CO9596	7:00am	7:50am	Daily
CO9598	10:15am	11:45am	1,2,6 via Rota
CO9600	10:45am	11:35am	3,4,5,7
CO9602	2:00pm	2:50pm	Daily
CO9604	5:00pm	5:50pm	Daily
CO9606	8:00pm	8:50pm	Daily

Narita-Saipan

NW 076	10:15am	2:50pm	Daily
NW 077	6:25pm	1:30am+1	Daily
NW 100	8:45pm	1:20am+1	Daily

Osaka-Saipan

NW 084	10:30am	3:05pm	Daily

Nagoya-Saipan

NW 077	9:00pm	1:30am+1	Daily

Seoul-Saipan

OZ 605	9:00am	2:30pm	2,4,6,7
OZ 603	7:40pm	1:10am+1	7
OZ 603	8:10pm	1:40am+1	1,2,3,4,5,6

Busan-Saipan

OZ 607	9:30pm	2:50am+1	4,7

Manila-Guam

CO 892	11:45am	8:25pm+1	3 via Koror and Yap
CO 892	10:10pm	5:30am+1	5 via Koror
CO 934	10:55pm	4:30am+1	Daily
PR 110	10:20pm	4:00am+1	1,3,5,6,7

Guanzhou-Saipan

CZ 3007	8:00pm	4:00am+1	1,5

Rota-Guam

CO 9313	9:30am	10:00am	3,4,7

Editor's Note: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); CO: Continental; PR: Philippine Airlines; CZ: China Southern; CA: Air China; NW: Northwest; JO: Japan Airlines; OZ: Asiana; MU: China Eastern ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)

FREEDOM AIR FLIGHT SCHEDULE

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
Guam-Rota			
FRE 100	7:00am	7:30am	Daily
Rota-Saipan			
FRE 100	7:50am	8:20am	Daily
Saipan-Rota			
FRE 200	9:00am	9:30am	Daily
Rota-Guam			
FRE 200	9:50am	10:15am	Daily
Guam-Rota			
FRE 300	4:00pm	4:30pm	Daily
Rota-Saipan			
FRE 300	4:50pm	5:25pm	Daily
Saipan-Rota			
FRE 400	6:00pm	6:30pm	Daily
Rota-Guam			
FRE 400	6:45pm	7:15pm	Daily
Saipan-Tinian			
FRE 101	6:45am	6:55am	Daily
FRE 103	7:30am	7:40am	Daily
FRE 105	8:00am	8:10am	Daily
FRE 107	8:40am	8:50am	Daily
FRE 109*	9:10am	9:20am	Daily
FRE 111*	10:45am	10:55am	Daily

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
FRE 113	11:40am	11:50am	Daily
FRE 115	1:00pm	1:10pm	Daily
FRE 117	2:30pm	2:40pm	Daily
FRE 119	4:00pm	4:10pm	Daily
FRE 121	4:40pm	4:50pm	Daily
FRE 123 *	5:40pm	5:50pm	Daily
FRE 125 *	6:00pm	6:10pm	Daily
Tinian-Saipan w/ connecting flights to Rota or Guam**			
FRE 102	7:05am	7:15am	Daily
FRE 104	7:50am	8:00am	Daily
FRE 106**	8:20am	8:30am	Daily
FRE 108**	9:00am	9:10am	Daily
FRE 110	10:00am	10:10am	Daily
FRE 112	11:05am	11:15am	Daily
FRE 114	12:00pm	12:10pm	Daily
FRE 116	1:30pm	1:40pm	Daily
FRE 118	2:50pm	3:00pm	Daily
FRE 120**	4:20pm	4:30pm	Daily
FRE 122**	5:00pm	5:10pm	Daily
FRE 124	6:05pm	6:15pm	Daily
FRE 126	6:20pm	6:30pm	Daily

GET YOUR PICTURES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS PUBLISHED—FOR FREE

The *Saipan Tribune* accepts for FREE publication the following:

PICTURES

- ISLAND SNAPSHOTS
  Birthdays, baptisms, christenings, family gatherings, reunions, club activities, and other community-related events.
- BIRTHDAY GREETINGS
  A way for families and friends to greet their loved ones, accompanied by a picture of the person celebrating his/her birthday.
- BUSINESS
  Corporate donations, volunteer work, promotions, granting of awards, team-building exercises, meetings and other activities by members of the business community.
- SAMU'T SARI
  Pictures from the islands' Filipino community, primarily focusing on Filipino activities, gatherings, get-togethers, volunteer work, etc.
- TRAVELOGUE
  Pictures of off-island travels. Contributors may submit up to 10 pictures for consideration.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- COMMUNITY BRIEFS
  Announcements of upcoming activities of organizations, community clubs, government agencies, and private companies.
- CAMPUS BULLETIN
  Announcements of upcoming activities in public and private schools, as well as calendar of activities. May include PTSA meetings, enrollment procedures.

REQUIREMENTS

For pictures:

- Photos should be original and not copyrighted. Contributors must have the right to allow the *Saipan Tribune* to publish the pictures.
- Digital pictures should be high-resolution (minimum of 800kb).
- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and phone number.
- Photos must have been taken in the last two months.
- For birthday greetings, must be submitted no later than 12 noon of the previous day to make it to next day's edition.

For announcements:

- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and a phone number.
- Must be submitted no later than 12 noon to make it to next day's edition.

HOW TO SUBMIT

- E-mail: editor@saipantribune.com or jayvee_vallejera@saipantribune.com.
- Fax: (670) 235-3740
- Mail: PMB 34, P.O. Box 10001, Saipan, CNMI 96950
- Drop off: 2nd Floor, CIC Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan
  To check if contributions are received, call (670) 235-6397, 235-2440, 235-8747

POLICY

- The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to accept or reject a contribution for publication; the right to edit all contributions, the date of publication, size of the picture, and page placement; and the right to publish contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats.
- The *Saipan Tribune* will decide how often community announcements are going to be published.
- For Travelogue, the *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to choose which pictures to publish.

NMI CRIME STOPPERS

Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:

- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any PTI cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.com

NEWS DESK For news tips, corrections and requests for news coverage, call (670) 235-NEWS (6397), 235-2440, fax 235,3740. E-mail: editor@saipantribune.com. Website:www.saipantribune.com.

CUSTOMER SERVICE For inquiries, purchase of back issues and complaints, call (670) 235-8747, 235-2440, fax 235-3740.

SUBSCRIPTION Published Monday to Sunday, *Saipan Tribune* offers door-to-door on-island delivery at an annual rate of $182. Off-island subscription rate is $376 per year. For additional subscription information, call (670) 235-8747 or 235-2769, or fax 235-3740.

ADVERTISING For inquiries contact (670) 235-2769. E-mail: sales@saipantribune.com

Schedule of Religious Services

CATHOLIC

Mt. Carmel Cathedral
Sunday Mass: 6am, 9am, 11am and 6pm
Monday-Saturday: 6am
Wednesday: 6am and 6pm

Korean Center
Sunday: 10:30am
Wednesday: 10am
Thursday-Friday: 8pm
Saturday: 3pm and 7:30pm

Kristo Rai Parish
Sunday Mass: 6am, 8am and 9:30am
Monday- Saturday: 6am
Wednesday: 6am and 6pm
Saturday: 6am and 6pm

Nuestra Senora De Soledad Parish
Wednesday Mass: 6pm
First Friday Healing Mass: 6pm
Saturday Mass: 6pm
Sunday Masses: 7:30am & 9am

Saint Jude Parish
Sunday: 6am, 8am, 10am
Wednesday and Thursday: 6pm

San Antonio Parish
Sunday: 6am and 8am
Tuesday and Friday: 6pm

San Francisco de Borja-Rota
Sunday: 6am and 8am
Monday-Saturday: 6am
Wednesday: 6pm

San Isidro-Rota
Sunday: 5am and 10am
Monday-Wednesday: 7pm
Thursday-Saturday: 5am and 7pm

San Jose (Oleai) Parish
Sunday: 6am and 7:30am
Tuesday-Wednesday and Friday-Saturday: 6pm

San Roque Parish
Sunday: 9am
Wednesday: 6pm
Saturday: 10:30am

San Vicente Parish
Sunday: 6am, 9am and 6pm
Monday-Saturday: 6pm

Santa Remedios
Sunday: 7:30am
Tuesday: 6pm
Saturday: 10am-Baptism

Santa Soledad
Sunday: 7:30am

PROTESTANT

Born Again Christian (Upper Room Int'l Ministries), Saipan
Wednesday Prayer and Healing Night: 8-10:30pm
Saturday Tagalog Service: 8-10:30pm
Sunday English Service: 9:30-11am
Sunday School for Children: 10-11am
Sunday Filipino Service: 7-9pm

Calvary Baptist Church, Saipan
Sunday School: 9am
Sunday Morning Worship: 10am
Sunday Evening Worship: 6pm
Wednesday Prayer Service: 7pm

Chinese Christian Church of Saipan
Worship Services: Sunday, 10am and 7:30pm
Bible Study: Tuesday-Friday, 9:25pm

Cornerstone Christian Church, Saipan
Worship/Study Opportunities
Adult Sunday School: 9am
Youth Sunday School: 9am
English Worship Service Sunday: 10am
Sunday Service: 5:30pm
Worship/Fellowship Sunday: 9:30pm
Evangelism/Follow-up: Sunday/Monday: 1:30/7:30pm
Worship Team: Monday/Saturday-9pm;
Cell Groups Tuesday: 7:30pm
Mid-week Service: 7:30pm
Prayer Meeting Wednesday: 7:30pm
Leader's Bible Study Friday: 7:30 pm
Cornerstone School of Ministry Saturday: 7:30pm

Episcopal/Anglican Church on Saipan
St. Paul's Episcopal Church
Worship Service Sunday: Holy Communion 9:00am
Place: Vicarage, Chalan Laulau,
Call 235-0545 for directions

Grace Christian Assembly, Saipan
Worship Service: 9am
GBI Classes: 4-6pm
Prayer Meeting: Monday-Saturday: 6am
Sunday: 7am
Home Cell Bible Study: Wednesday-Friday: 7pm
Youth Service: Friday: 5:30pm

Iglesia Ni Cristo, Saipan
Wednesday: 7:45pm (Tagalog)
Thursday: 5:30am (English); 7:45 pm (English)
Saturday: 5:30am (Tagalog); 7:45pm (Tagalog)
Sunday: 6:45am (English)
Children Worship Service: Sunday, 9am (English)

Immanuel United Methodist Church Koblerville
Sunday Services
9:00 AM
Place of the church-next to Mt. Carmel Cathedral on Chalan Kanoa Dr. • Tel: 322-6158
Pastor JJ Matsumoto

Immanuel Methodist Church (Filipino Congregation)
Sunday: 7:00am-Choir Rehearsal
8:00am-Church Service (Tagalog)
9:15am-Sunday School
Wednesday: 6:30pm, home group
8:00pm-Prayer Meeting
Thursday: 7:30pm-Choir Practice (Church)
Saturday: 8:00pm-Choir Practice (Parsonage)

Jesus is Lord Church, Saipan
English Service: 9-11am, Sunday
Tagalog Service: 6-8pm, Sunday

Korean Presbyterian Church, Saipan
Sunday School: 8:20am
Sunday Adult: 10am
Sunday Adult: 11:30am
Sunday Evening: 7:30pm
Wednesday: 8pm

Life in the Son Christian Fellowship, Saipan
Sunday Worship Service: 10am–12noon
Tuesday: Leadership Institute 7pm-10pm
Wednesday: Corporate prayer 7pm-8pm
Last Friday of the month-prayer: 7pm-11pm
Friday: Youth on Fire: 7pm-9pm
Tel. No. 235-LIFE (5433)

Marianas Baptist Church, Saipan
English Worship Service: 9-10:30am
Evening Worship Service: 6-7pm
Children Sunday School: 9-10:30am
Tagalog Sunday School: 11am-12pm
English Sunday School: 11am-12pm
Korean Worship Service: 11am-12pm
Wednesday Prayer Meeting:
English, 7pm-8pm
Korean: 8:30pm-9:30pm

Missions Connection Ministry
Every Sunday Celebrations:
10am (English), 6pm (Tagalog)
Wednesday Bible Study: 7pm
Youth Impact Friday: 7pm
Saturday Prayer Meeting: 7pm

Northern Marianas Christian Church
Sunday Worship Service 10am Fina Sisu Housing FS#1 (Child care will be provided)
Friday Services @ 7pm Fina Sisu FS#1 for more info pls. contact Ryan 484-2620

Saipan Bible Fellowship Church
Sunday School: 9:30-10am
Divine Worship: 10am-11:30am
Evening Service: 7pm-8:30pm
Wednesday Prayer Meeting: 8pm-9pm

Saipan Christian Church
Sunday: 7:30am-10am
Sunday: 6:30 pm -9pm
Monday: 8 pm -10pm (Prayer Meeting)
Thursday: 8pm-10pm (Cell Groups)

Saipan Church of Christ
Sunday Bible Class: 9am
Sunday Worship: 10am
Sunday Worship English: 6pm
Sunday Worship Tagalog: 7pm
Wednesday Bible Study: 7:30pm

Saipan Community Church
(Sunday Services)
Palau Service: 7:30am-9am
English Service: 10am-11:30am
Chuukese Service: 1pm-2:30pm
Filipino Service: 5:00pm-7:00pm

Seventh-Day Adventist Church, Saipan
(Saturday Church Services)
Sabbath School Program: 9-10am
Lesson Study: 10-10:40am
Divine Service: 11-12pm
Visitation: 3-4pm
Adventist Youth Program: 4:30-5:30pm
Sundown Worship: 6-7pm

First Baptist Church
(Formerly Saipan Baptist Church)
Afetna St., San Antonio
Sunday
9am Sunday school
10am Regular worship
6pm worship
Wednesday
7pm worship
Everyone is warmly welcome to attend our worship services. Transportation is readily available to anyone who needs a ride to our church. For further information, please call Pastor David M. Mclure at 234-1939/235-7779.

Thy Word Ministries Saipan Faith Center
Phone 234-0209
New Christian Charismatic Church Service located in Chalan Paio, Beach Road in the Sablan building on the 2nd floor above Subway Sandwiches.
Senior Pastors: George & Gail Kamakahi
Asst. Pastors: Eric & Penny Sakaguchi
Service Times
Sunday 10:00am Worship Service
Sunday 7pm Discipleship Classes
Tuesday 10:00am Bible Studies
Tuesday 6:00pm Intercessory Prayer
Tuesday 7:00pm Music Practice
Wednesday 7:00pm Mid-Week Service
Saturday 10:00am Evangelism

Upper Room International Ministries
Sunday 5:30am-6:30am
Morning prayer
7am-9am English service
7am-9am Sunday school
10am-12noon English service, Koblerville
Wednesday 7pm-9pm Prayer meeting
Saturday 7pm-9pm Tagalog service
Venue: Jason Presbyterian Church
Gualo Rai, Saipan

Victory Chapel Christian Fellowship Church
Sunday School: 9:30am
Sunday AM Worship:10:30am
Sunday PM Worship:7:00am
Wed Worship: 7:30pm
Prayer 45 min. Prior to Service Times
Morning Prayer: 6-8am M-S

Flashback

A LOOK BACK AT PAST YEARS' HEADLINES

SEPTEMBER 27, 2000

US child tax credit extended to CNMI

It is going to be a real Merry Christmas for more than 3,500 families in the Northern Marianas. The United States Internal Revenue Service is now laying the groundwork for the implementation of a special tax credit given to American taxpayers who have three or more dependent children under 17 years old. Around $10 million in additional cash is expected to flow into the Commonwealth economy at least before Christmas from the implementation of the Additional Child Tax Credit Program in the CNMI, according to IRS chief for special projects Doug Rogers.

Oil giant takes another round of fuel price hike

Northern Marianas motorists and car owners have been faced with higher fuel costs after oil giant Shell Marianas raised pump prices of its petroleum products by an average of six cents per gallon during the weekend. There was no word yet from market leader Mobil Oil Marianas if it would increase prices of its fuel products to the current level sold at Shell service stations throughout the islands.

Feds begin disbursing back pay to 300 Eurotex workers

U.S. labor officials yesterday began disbursing partial payment of back wages owed to some 300 factory workers of Eurotex amounting to $600,000. The settlement was made possible after some of the buyers and retailers of the company sent money to ensure the continued shipment of goods, according to an official of the U.S. Department of Labor and Immigration who declined to be identified.

SEPTEMBER 27, 2001

Amid declining revenue, retroactive pay hike mulled

Senate leaders intend to amend the $233-million Fiscal Year 2002 budget during a special session in Tinian today to include a provision on the granting of retroactive pay hikes to government workers. Sen. Edward U. Maratita said that, as an initial step, the Senate will amend the money measure to include at least $2 million that will be used as partial payment for the retroactive salary hike of government workers.

'No-show' weakens hope for more federal funding

More citizens are expressing concern that Resident Representative Juan N. Babauta was in the NMI campaigning last week, rather than in Washington D.C. working for federal emergency assistance for the islands. "The role and responsibility of the Washington Representative is to protect our interests in D.C.," said Herman R. Guerrero, Covenant Party candidate for Resident Representative. "How can the CNMI expect to get federal aid if our man in Washington is 'missing in action'."

Bomb threats becoming a fad

After the Northern Marianas College and the Garapan HeadStart, it's now the Guma Hustisia's turn. "There's a bomb threat at the building. You better leave and come back later," a panicky voice came from an alert Jovita Flores, the superior court's clerk-of-court. "Use the front door." Hurriedly but with presence of mind, court employees went out of the building as emergency response units from the government arrived. Just outside the front door of the building was Supreme Court Chief Justice Miguel S. Demapan.

SEPTEMBER 27, 2002

Babauta gets $830K in grants from OIA

Approximately $800,000 in Department of the Interior grants were handed to the Governor and Resident Representative of the CNMI by David Cohen, DOI deputy assistant secretary of the Office of Insular Affairs. Taking advantage of Gov. Juan N. Babauta's presence in Washington, D.C. this week for a variety of business, Cohen demonstrated that the Federal government would continue to work cooperatively with the CNMI to strengthen and diversify its economy.

DOF reviews CUC flat rates for govt offices

In anticipation of a $5-million shortfall in utility payments for the next fiscal year, the Department of Finance is now working with the Commonwealth Utilities Corp. to look at the CNMI government's utility expenses for the upcoming fiscal year. Villanueva said this involves reviewing all the flat rate charges that CUC assesses for power, water and sewer on the CNMI government "and see if the amount charged to the government for flat rates can be reevaluated again."

AMID GOP REVOLT

Bailout deal breaks down

AP

Talking on his cell phone, Secretary of the Treasury Henry Paulson enters the Capitol for a late night meeting with members of Congress.

WASHINGTON (AP)—A Republican rebellion stalled government efforts Thursday to avoid economic meltdown, a chaotic turnaround that disrupted the choreography of an extraordinary White House meeting meant to show joint resolve from the president, the political parties and the presidential candidates. Instead, the summit broke up so bitterly that Treasury Secretary Henry Paulson got on one knee before Democratic leaders in a theatrical attempt to salvage talks.

After six days of bare-knuckled negotiations on the $700 billion financial industry bailout proposed by the Bush administration, with Wall Street tottering and presidential politics intruding six weeks before the election, there was far more confusion than clarity.

An apparent breakthrough was announced with fanfare at midday by key members of Congress from both parties—but not top leaders. Wall Street cautiously showed its pleasure, with the Dow Jones industrials closing 196 points higher.

But the good news and the market close were followed by a rash of less-positive developments.

Washington Mutual Inc. was seized by the Federal Deposit Insurance Corp. in the largest failure ever of a U.S. bank, after which JPMorgan Chase & Co. Inc. came to its rescue by buying the thrift's banking assets.

And the late-afternoon White House gathering of President Bush, presidential contenders John McCain and Barack Obama, and top congressional leaders turned into what one person in the room described as "a full-throated discussion" and McCain's campaign called "a contentious shouting match."

Conservatives were in revolt over the astonishing price tag of the proposal and the hand of government that it would place on private markets.

Sen. Richard Shelby of Alabama, the top Republican on the Senate Banking Committee, emerged from the White House meeting to say the announced agreement "is, obviously, no agreement." McCain's campaign issued a statement saying, "the plan that has been put forth by the administration does not enjoy the confidence of the American people as it will not protect the taxpayers and will sacrifice Main Street in favor of Wall Street." The White House, too, acknowledged there was no deal, only progress.

Meanwhile a group of House GOP lawmakers circulated an alternative that would put much less focus on a government takeover of failing institutions' sour assets. This proposal would have the government provide insurance to companies that agree to hold frozen assets, rather than have the U.S. purchase the assets.

Inside the White House session, House Republican leader John Boehner announced his concerns about the emerging plan and asked that the conservatives' alternative be considered, said people from both parties who were briefed on the exchange.

Financial Services Chairman Barney Frank, the feisty Democrat who has been leading negotiations with Paulson, reacted angrily, saying Republicans had waited until the last moment to present their proposal.

McCain, who dramatically announced Wednesday that he was suspending his campaign to deal with the economic crisis, stayed silent for most of the session and spoke only briefly to voice general principles for a rescue plan.

Nation

Dems, some in GOP question McCain's intervention

WASHINGTON (AP)—Sen. John McCain's self-portrait as a bold leader willing to set politics aside to save an endangered financial bailout plan took a pounding Thursday from top Democrats and even some fellow Republicans.

His efforts to re-energize his presidential campaign will partly turn on who wins the public relations battle, destined to play out for days. Things didn't go too well for McCain on Thursday.

Top Democrats in Congress ridiculed his role after a chaotic end to a White House summit meeting that McCain had requested, and which included Democratic nominee Barack Obama. McCain's own campaign said the session "devolved into a contentious shouting match."

The campaign statement suggested Obama was at fault. But Democrats were disdainful.

"John McCain did nothing to help," said Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid, D-Nev., who attended the meeting. "He only hurt the process."

Hours later, when negotiations hastily resumed in the Capitol, House Republicans refused to send a representative authorized to bargain.

"This is the president's own party," said Rep. Barney Frank of Massachusetts, a chief Democratic negotiator. "I don't think a president has been repudiated so strongly by the congressional wing of his own party in a long time."

"We still don't know whether Sen. McCain works with them or not," he added.

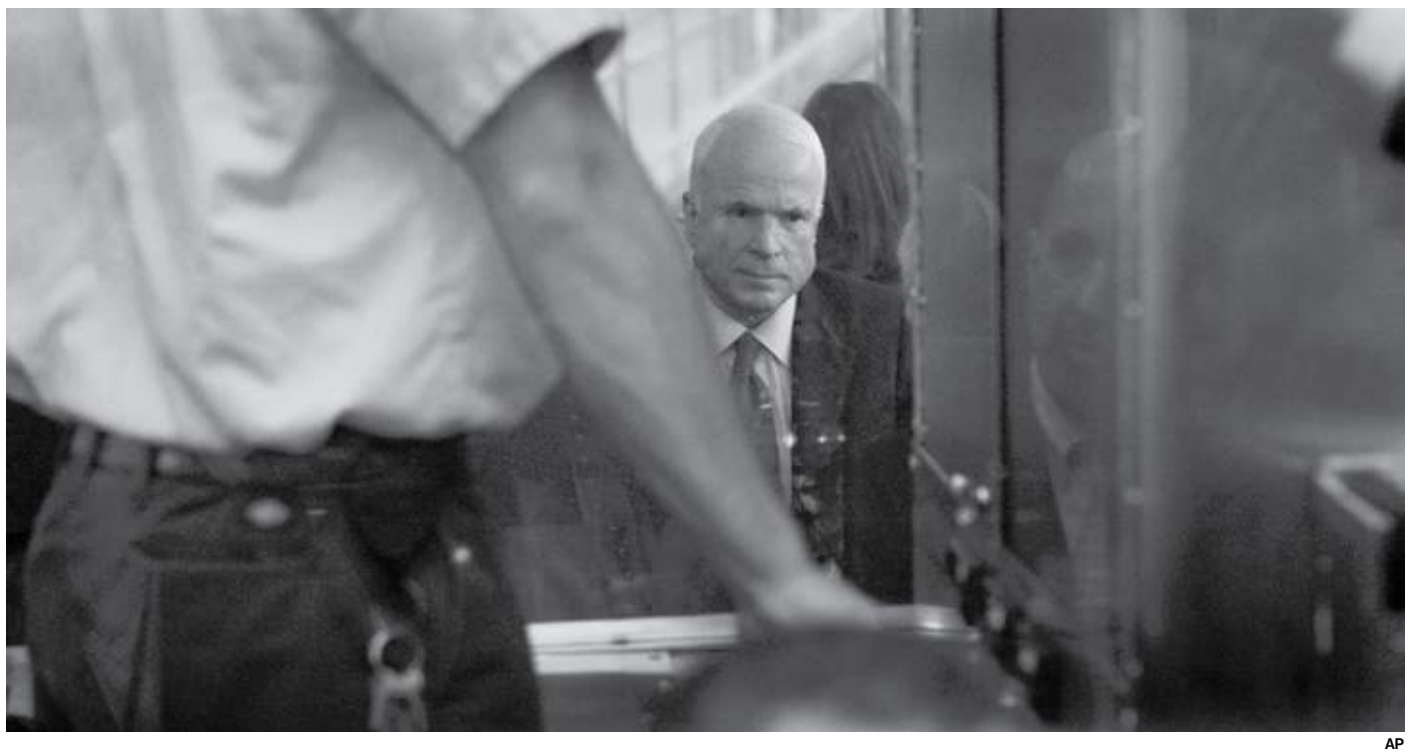
Negotiations that had centered on a $700 billion plan the Bush administration presented last Saturday seemed to fall apart. An alternative plan drafted by conservative House Republicans was discussed at the White House meeting, but McCain's level of interest was unclear.

"At this moment, the plan that has been put forth by the administration does not enjoy the confidence of the American people as it will not protect ... taxpayers and will sacrifice Main Street in favor of Wall Street," the McCain campaign said in a statement. "We are still optimistic that a bipartisan solution will be found," it said.

Treasury Secretary Henry Paulson sped to Capitol Hill to try to revive or rework the proposal the administration says Congress must approve quickly to stave off economic disaster.

Even the House's Republican leader, John Boehner of Ohio, passed up a chance to praise McCain's leadership powers shortly before the two met in the Capitol at midday Thursday. Asked by reporters if McCain could help win House Republican votes for the proposed package, Boehner shrugged and said, "Who knows?"

Boehner later said in a statement that McCain "has a vital role to play in this process, and he has a history of working together with both parties to make things happen."



AP

Republican presidential candidate, Sen. John McCain, R-Ariz., rides the Russell Senate subway from his office to the Capitol Building on Capitol Hill in Washington, Thursday, Sept. 25, 2008.

Report: FDA lax in oversight of produce industry

FRESNO, Calif. (AP)—The Food and Drug Administration's efforts to combat food-borne illness are hampered by infrequent inspections, not enough staff and the failure to implement a program devoted to the safety of fresh produce, according to congressional investigators.

The Government Accountability Office draft report obtained Thursday by The Associated Press also said that only 1 percent of produce imported into the U.S. is inspected, and that the practice of mixing produce from several sources makes it hard to trace contamination.

The findings, to be released Friday, outraged Sen. Barbara Boxer, a California Democrat who along with Massachusetts Sen. Ted Kennedy called for the investigation after the 2006 E. coli contamination in bagged spinach killed three people, sickened 200 others and cost the leafy greens industry $86 million.

"This report paints a frightening picture of the FDA's fresh produce safety efforts," Boxer said. It "should serve as a wake up call to do more to protect the nation's food supply."

A spokesman for the FDA would not comment until the report was released.

The report said that inspections at produce-processing facilities are rare and that when problems are discovered, the FDA relies on the industry to correct them without oversight or follow-up.

Error-prone Detroit police crime lab shut down

DETROIT (AP)—The Detroit police crime lab was shut down by the city's new mayor and police chief after an outside audit found errors in some evidence used to prosecute cases involving murder and other crimes, officials said Thursday.

Wrongful convictions are a possibility, according to the audit, conducted by the Michigan State Police. Wayne County prosecutor Kym Worthy also noted that some criminals may have gone uncharged because of the lab's shortcomings.

"We have no idea how many people are walking around that have committed crimes that we don't know about," said Worthy, who blamed the problems on human error, as well as a lack of funding, resources and training.

The audit found erroneous or false findings in 10 percent of 200 random cases and subpar quality control compliance at the lab, Worthy said.

The report revealed a "shocking level of imcompetence" in the lab and constitutes a systemic problem, she said at a news conference. When it came to recognized work standards, the lab met only 42 percent of a required 100 percent, Worthy said.

Palin to return donations from tainted politicians

JUNEAU, Alaska (AP)—GOP vice presidential nominee Sarah Palin said late Thursday she would donate to charity more than $1,000 in campaign contributions from two Alaska politicians who were implicated in a sprawling public corruption scandal. She's also handing back another $1,000 from the wife of one of the men.

The announcement from a spokesman for the campaign of Republican nominee John McCain came hours after The Associated Press reported Palin had accepted the checks during her successful 2006 run for Alaska governor in the weeks after the FBI raided the offices of the lawmakers.

The ensuing scandal became a rallying point for candidate Palin, who was swept into office after promising voters she would rid Alaska's capital of dirty politics.

"Of course, Governor Palin has made a career of holding herself to the highest standards of ethics. As soon as the governor learned of the donations today, she immediately decided to donate them to charity," said the spokesman, Taylor Griffin.

Griffin said he did not know which charity would receive the money from Palin's old campaign fund, but expected the return to take place as early as Friday.

The two men were snagged in a federal investigation that revolves around an oil field services company once known as VECO Corp. Executives from the company remain at the center of the trial of Alaska Sen. Ted Stevens that began this week in Washington.

ACROSS THE NATION

Storm off Southeast coast heads for Carolinas

WRIGHTSVILLE BEACH, N.C. (AP)—An intense low-pressure system with wind gusts of up to 52 mph kicked up rough surf, caused minor flooding and knocked out power to thousands of homes in Virginia as it lumbered toward the Carolinas on Thursday. Minor flooding was reported along the coast from South Carolina to Virginia, with the storm stirring a nighttime high tide and dumping as much as 4.2 inches of rain. In Wrightsville Beach, vacationers Bill and Linda Schweikert from Stow, Ohio, snapped photos of gray, head-high waves in brisk 30-mph winds. "Lake Erie doesn't do this very often," said Linda Schweikert, 62, a retired teacher. "It is pretty." The storm's center was just off the coast near North Myrtle Beach, S.C., at 11 p.m. EDT. National Weather Service meteorologist Ron Steve said the storm should come ashore around midnight near the North Carolina-South Carolina state line. Winds should diminish after raking the eastern and central parts of North Carolina.

FBI: Evangelist Alamo arrested in child sex case

LITTLE ROCK, Ark. (AP)—FBI agents arrested evangelist and convicted tax evader Tony Alamo at an Arizona motel Thursday, alleging days after raiding the Arkansas headquarters of his ministry that he took minors across state lines for sexual purposes. Alamo was staying at a hotel in Flagstaff, Ariz., when arrested, said FBI spokesman Steve Frazier in Little Rock. The religious leader—who began his career as a California street preacher in 1966—was scheduled for a federal court appearance Friday in Flagstaff.

Alamo is suspected of violating the Mann Act, which prohibits taking children across state lines for illegal purposes. Frazier described those purposes as "sexual activity." Several women were traveling with Alamo when he was arrested, but no minors were with him, police said. Authorities did not say when minors were taken across state lines or which states were involved, but Alamo has ministries in California and Arkansas.

Okla. executes polygamist who killed young niece

McALESTER, Okla. (AP)—A polygamist convicted of fatally stabbing his 11-year-old niece and dumping her body in rural Oklahoma was executed Thursday. Jessie James Cummings Jr., whose personality was once compared to Charles Manson's, reiterated his innocence before being executed. "The justice system let me down on this case. It turned a blind eye to truth in this," Cummings said. "Today, you came here to see an innocent man die." He gasped twice during the six-minute execution and died at 6:11 p.m. Cummings was convicted of killing Melissa Moody, whose skeletal remains were discovered near a Choctaw County bridge in 1991. In an application for clemency, his attorney, Chris Eulberg, wrote that the conviction was based solely on the uncorroborated testimony of his two wives, Juanita and Sherry Cummings.

Asia

Pakistanis fire on US helicopters at border

KABUL, Afghanistan (AP)—Pakistani soldiers fired at American reconnaissance helicopters that were escorting Afghan and U.S. ground troops along the volatile border Thursday, sparking a five-minute ground battle between the countries which have been allies in the war on terrorism, officials said.

Attempting to play down the incident—the first serious exchange with Pakistani forces acknowledged by the U.S.—Pakistan's president said only "flares" were fired at foreign helicopters that he said had strayed across the border from Afghanistan into his country.

The five-minute exchange, which could have easily escalated into a much bigger conflict, could heighten tensions at a time the U.S. is stepping up cross-border operations in a region known as a haven for Taliban and al-Qaida militants.

■ ■ ■

UNITED NATIONS (AP)—Angered by U.S. raids into Pakistan in search of terrorists, Pakistan's new president warned Thursday that his country cannot allow its territory to "be violated by our friends."

After placing a picture of his assassinated wife, former Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto, on the podium, President Asif Ali Zardari told world leaders that such attacks strengthen the extremists the U.S. and others are trying to destroy.

His speech at the U.N. General Assembly, which often emotionally described Pakistan's battle against terrorists, comes at a tense moment in U.S.-Pakistan relations.

Pakistani soldiers fired at U.S. reconnaissance helicopters along the Pakistan-Afghan border Thursday, officials said, sparking a ground battle between American and Pakistani soldiers.

"Just as we will not let Pakistan's territory to be used by terrorists for attacks against our people and our neighbors, we cannot allow our territory and our sovereignty to be violated by our friends," Zardari said.

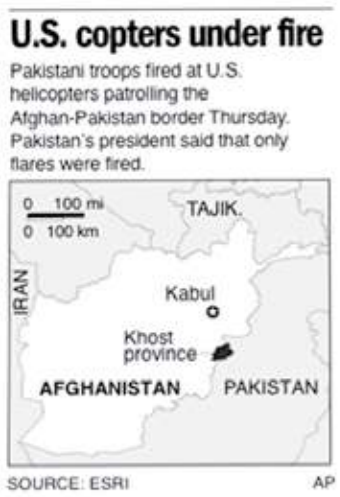
"Unilateral actions of great powers should not inflame the passions of allies," he said.

■ ■ ■

It also came as new Pakistani President Asif Ali Zardari was in New York meeting with Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice, and Afghan President Hamid Karzai was scheduled to meet with President Bush on Friday.

Two American OH-58 reconnaissance helicopters, known as Kiowas, were on a routine patrol in the eastern province of Khost when they received small arms fire from the Pakistani border post, said Tech Sgt. Kevin Wallace, a U.S. military spokesman in Bagram. There was no damage to aircraft or crew, officials said.

U.S. Central Command spokesman Rear Adm. Greg Smith said the helicopters had been escorting U.S. troops and Afghan border police. When the helicopters were fired on, the ground forces fired rounds meant not to hit the Pakistani troops, but "to make certain that they realized they should stop shooting," Smith said from Centcom headquarters in Florida.



EU bans baby food with Chinese milk

BEIJING (AP)—The European Union banned imports of baby food containing Chinese milk Thursday as a toxic chemical that was illegally added to China's dairy supplies turned up in candy and other Chinese-made goods that were quickly pulled from stores worldwide.

The 27-nation EU adds to the growing list of countries that have banned or recalled Chinese dairy products because of the contamination, which has killed four Chinese babies and sickened 54,000. In addition to the ban, the European Commission called for more checks on other Chinese food imports.

Outside Shanghai, three zoo babies were found to have developed kidney stones after being nursed with tainted milk powder for more than a year. A lion cub and two baby orangutans were sickened after drinking infant formula made by the Sanlu Group Co., said Zhang Xu, a veterinarian with the Hangzhou Zhangxu Animal Hospital.

Sanlu is at the center of the tainted milk crisis.

Chinese baby formula contaminated with melamine has been blamed for the deaths and illnesses in China. Health experts say ingesting a small amount of the chemical poses no danger, but melamine—used to make plastics and fertilizer—can cause kidney stones and lead to kidney failure. Infants are particularly vulnerable.

ASIAN BRIEFS

India open for $80B in nuclear business

MUMBAI, India (AP)—Indian nuclear energy officials say they would like to do business with GE and other U.S. firms. But if they can't, there's always France and Russia. Even as a landmark U.S.-India nuclear accord hangs in limbo in the U.S. Congress, the global gates of nuclear trade with India are now open. Whether or not U.S. companies get the go-ahead to sell nuclear fuel and technology to India, the country's nuclear officials are confident they will get their uranium. "If a deal with Congress doesn't happen, we will have business with other countries. So simple," said SK Malhotra, a spokesman for India's Department of Atomic Energy. India reached nuclear trade agreements with Russia and France in January, though the government has held out on implementing them until a U.S. deal goes forward, said Shreyans Kumar Jain, chairman of India's state-run Nuclear Power Corp. Ltd., which runs all 17 of the nation's nuclear reactors.

Latest China orbital mission to feature spacewalk

JIUQUAN, China (AP)—China launched a three-man crew into space Thursday night, including one who will make the country's first spacewalk—its most challenging mission since its first orbital flight in 2003. The Shenzhou 7 spacecraft, China's third manned mission, blasted off atop a Long March 2F rocket into a clear night sky in northwestern China. Hours later, the spacecraft moved into a round orbit 213 miles above earth, the official Xinhua News Agency reported. The three astronauts—who were reported in good physical condition, with body temperature and blood pressure normal early Friday—were scheduled to assemble and test their space suits later in the day ahead of the spacewalk, which Xinhua said will most likely happen on Saturday afternoon.

World

Ahmadinejad says nation must control nuclear fuel

NEW YORK (AP)—Iran needs the ability to produce nuclear fuel because it cannot rely on other nations to supply enriched uranium to the Islamic regime's planned reactors, the Iranian president said Thursday.

Ahmadinejad

Mahmoud Ahmadinejad—speaking to a gathering of selected journalists—also contended that Washington does not have the will to launch a military strike on Iran over its nuclear ambitions, which Tehran insists is for peaceful energy production but the West fears is a clandestine effort to gain atomic weapons.

"We're not concerned at all that a confrontation will occur," said Ahmadinejad, who is in New York for the U.N. General Assembly. "What (factors) demand a war?"

Ahmadinejad has used the U.N. session to host a variety of gatherings—including students and religious leaders—to press Iran's claims that it does not seek nuclear arms and has the right to develop reactors as an energy alternative to its vast oil and gas reserves.

Ahmadinejad also has taken broad swipes at the United States and Israel—saying the American "empire" is collapsing, branding the Jewish State as a "cesspool" that will someday disappear and again questioning the extent of the Holocaust.

Protesters, including Jewish groups, have gathered outside the U.N. building and at other events attended by Ahmadinejad, including a meeting with religious leaders in a New York hotel on Thursday. Israeli President Shimon Peres called Ahmadinejad's U.N. address "a repetition of the darkest accusations in the name of Hitler."

But the nuclear standoff has loomed largest.

Ahmadinejad said Iran must develop its own centrifuge system to enrich uranium or risk being held hostage to international supplies that could be halted. Western powers have offered Iran economic incentives to abandon its enrichment program and take outside supplies of fuel—suitable for reactors but not concentrated enough for weapons.

Ahmadinejad, however, said Iran would not step back from its own enrichment projects.

"What guarantee do we have that they would give (the nuclear fuel) to us?" he told the media gathering, which included The Associated Press.

Cell phone threats stir copycat fears in Finland

KAUHAJOKI, Finland (AP)—Panic spread among students in Finland on Thursday as threatening text messages and Internet postings raised fears of new attacks mimicking a deadly school rampage.

Worried children and parents jammed telephone help lines and scores of children stayed away from class after threats popped up against schools and students.

While most appeared to be hoaxes, police were taking every threat seriously to avoid a repeat of Tuesday's shooting, in which a 22-year-old gunman killed 10 people and himself at a vocational school in this town in western Finland.

It was the second school shooting in the country in less than a year. Last November, an 18-year-old man fatally shot eight people and himself at a high school in southern Finland.

"It's clear that the more you talk about these incidents, the more chances there are of copycats," National Police Commissioner Mikko Paatero told reporters in Helsinki. "After we've witnessed two such incidents, the threat is real."

Both gunmen posed with or fired guns in YouTube clips posted before the rampages. The similarities between the attacks - including reports that they bought their guns at the same place - prompted police to probe potential links between them.

"The cases were similar. They were the same type of person, so it could be possible," investigation leader Jari Neulaniemi told The Associated Press. "They had the same style of hair, same kind of clothing, same interests and ideals—and their deeds were the same."

WORLD BRIEFS

Vote at 16: Austria gets them while they're young

VIENNA, Austria (AP)—Nina Stanke is too young to drive, but for her 16th birthday, she's getting the right to vote. At a time when Barack Obama's presidential bid is energizing America's young voters and an expert in Britain is saying even children should be enfranchised, Austria has become the first European Union country to lower the voting age in national elections to 16. Driving the change is demographics: As the birthrate falls, seniors are beginning to dominate the electorate. A law lowering the age limit from 18 passed in 2007, and Sunday's parliamentary election will be young teens' first opportunity to vote nationwide. A few other nations allow voting at 16, including Brazil, Cuba, Nicaragua as well as the Isle of Man and Jersey, offshore British dependencies. Sixteen-year-olds in Austria as well as neighboring Germany already have been able to vote in some local elections.

Putin says ties with Latin America a top priority

NOVO-OGARYOVO, Russia (AP)—Prime Minister Vladimir Putin vowed Thursday to make relations with Latin America a top foreign policy priority, a pledge backed by the first Russian naval deployment to the Caribbean since the Cold War. Putin greeted Venezuelan President Hugo Chavez, on his second trip to Russia in just over two months, with offers to discuss further arms sales to Venezuela and possibly helping it to develop nuclear energy. Chavez's visit takes place as a Russian naval squadron sails to Venezuela, across the Caribbean Sea from the United States, in a pointed response to what the Kremlin has cast as threatening U.S. encroachment near its own borders. Both men suggested their countries are working to decrease U.S. global influence.

Canadian guilty in plot to behead prime minister

BRAMPTON, Ontario (AP)—A Canadian man accused of participating in military exercises and firearms training as part of a group authorities say plotted to storm Parliament and behead the prime minister was found guilty Thursday. The man's attorney says the plot was a "jihadi fantasy" and that his client knew nothing about it. A judge ruled Thursday that evidence of a terrorist group was "overwhelming." The man is the first person to be found guilty of a terrorist offense in Canada since the country enacted anti-terrorism laws in 2001. The arrests of the 18 group members, known as the "Toronto 18," made headlines around the world and heightened fears in Canada, where people believe they are relatively immune from terrorist strikes.

Maharlika

PINOY LIFE IN THE MARIANAS

Saturday, September 27, 2008

'Fewer jobs abroad for female migrant workers'

By VERONICA UY
INQUIRER.NET

MANILA, Philippines—With the world economic downturn, work usually available for female migrant workers is on the decline, a Philippine ambassador told an international conference on Thursday.

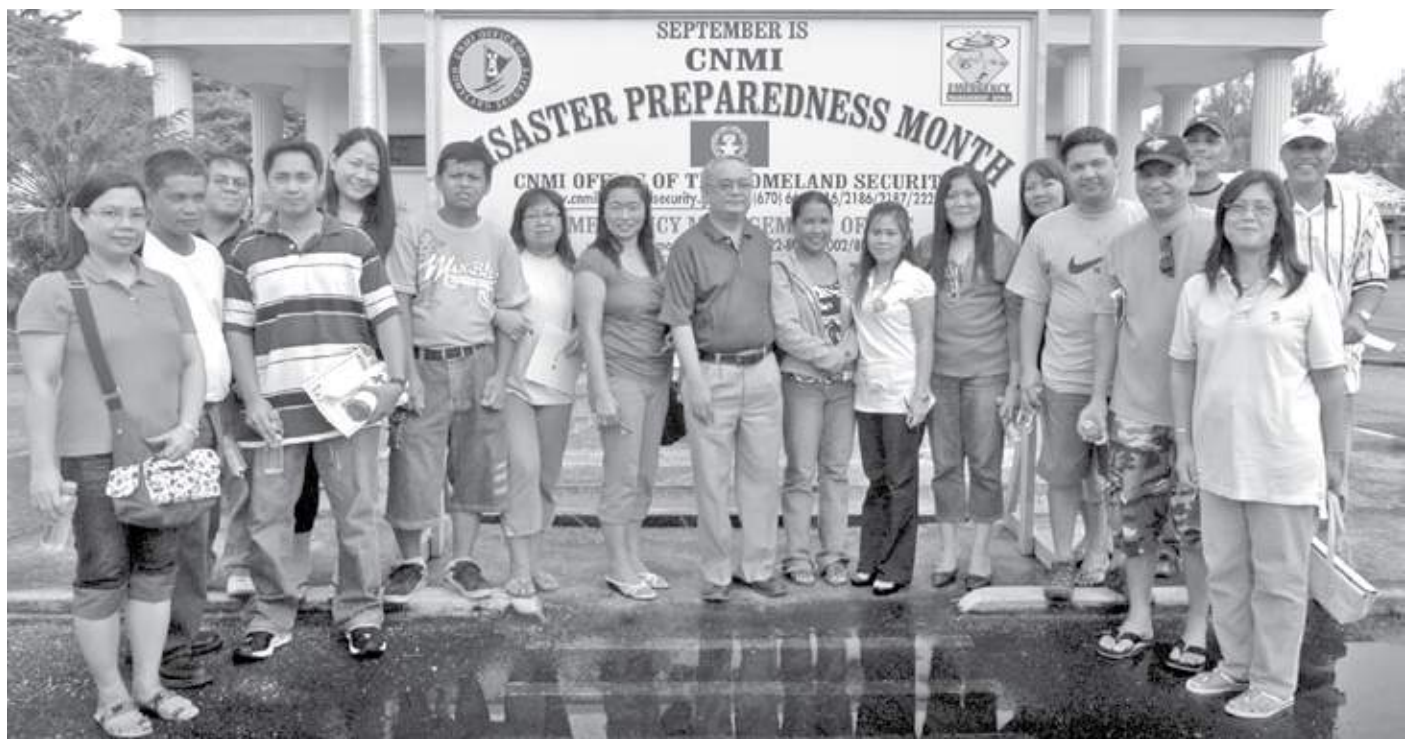
In her keynote speech at the International Conference on Gender, Migration, and Development, Philippine Ambassador to Germany Delia Albert said the decline in overseas work opportunities for women is evident in notices released by the Department of Foreign Affairs last week indicating several "traditional destinations for women service workers were closing their recruitment doors."

"It was also reported that even [wages for] low-paid jobs were getting even lower. Soon, it may not even be an economic win to have women workers continue with overseas jobs, if one has to take into account the serious social costs of an absent wife and mother," she said.

However, Albert admitted being unable to recall in which countries jobs for Filipinas were getting scarce, when asked after the forum.

Nevertheless, Albert's observations coincide with those of newly appointed Overseas Workers' Welfare Administration chief Carmelita Dimzon, who said that over the past year, the deployment of women overseas Filipino workers has declined.

In her experience in Europe, Albert said the problem of Filipina migrants has evolved from domestic violence (mostly among mail-order brides), from the 1970s to the 1990s, to tough competition for jobs now.



DISASTER PREPAREDNESS JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ

Philippine Consul General Wilfredo Maximo and Consul Belinda M. Ante pose with members of the Filipino community during the CNMI Emergency Management Office's Multi-Cultural Day at the Pedro P. Tenorio Multi-Purpose Center on Sunday as part of activities for Disaster Preparedness Month.

Thousands of Filipinos stranded outside UAE

MANILA, Philippines—Ramadan and stricter immigration rules of the United Arab Emirates have stranded thousands of Filipinos outside UAE borders, recruiters said.

Because of this, the Philippine embassies in Muscat, Tehran, and Abu Dhabi and the consulate general in Dubai were ordered to help the stranded Filipinos, most of who have entered the UAE with either visitor or tourist visas in the hope of finding work in the country, said Loreto Soriano of the LBS e-Recruitment Solutions.

Emmanuel Geslani, recruitment consultant, is calling on the Department of Tourism to crack down on travel agencies offering non-existent jobs in Dubai and other places in UAE.

Soriano and Geslani said many Filipinos, mostly women, were forced to sleep with men and go into prostitution to survive once they have used up their pocket money.

RP consular mission to Rota

The Philippine Consulate General will be conducting its annual consular mission to Rota on Oct. 11-12, 2008.

The consular service will be held at the Eskuelan San Francisco de Borja in Songsong Village, from 8:30am through 5pm with a one-hour lunch break.

The consular team will accept applications for the new machine readable passports and dual citizenship, perform notarial services, accept registrations of birth and marriages and fingerprinting services for NBI clearance applications. It will also release the MRPs of those who applied earlier.

The consular team, which includes representatives of the Philippine Overseas Labor Office and Overseas Workers Welfare Administration office on Saipan, will also accept payments for the overseas employment certificates and OWWA membership renewals.

The consular team will also conduct an information drive about the other services performed by the Consulate and its attached agencies, POLO and OWWA.

The Philippine Consulate urges Filipinos residing and working on Rota to take advantage of this opportunity to avail themselves of the field consular service. ***(PR)***

Migrant workers seen as 'inconvenient necessity'

MANILA,Philippines—While the estimated 191 million migrant workers worldwide contribute to the economic growth of host countries, they are still viewed as an "inconvenient necessity," an official of the United Nations' Development Fund for Women said Thursday.

At the International Conference on Gender, Migration, and Development, Dr. Jean D'Cunha, Unifem's regional program director for Southeast Asia, said this is because citizens of host countries feel threatened by the influx of migrant workers taking their jobs and state allocation for social and health benefits.

"Countries of origin and host countries both view migrant workers as source of development. But countries of destination view them as inconvenient necessity," she said in her speech.

D'Cunha said migrants are seen as a "polluting threat" to what is projected as "pristine" societies. She said migrants' assimilation is prevented to "avoid their competing with the entitlements" of host country's citizens.

"Many women migrant workers are perceived as sexually available….but generally migrant workers are viewed as dangerous, polluting and menacing threats in countries of destinations," she said.

The United Nations official said this perception is brought by the cultural stereotype that women migrant workers are good only for either domestic work or as entertainers.

To counteract, D'Cunha suggested that sending states band together to negotiate for a better deal—good working conditions and equal protection of rights—of their migrant workers. ***(INQUIRER.net)***

? LABOR FRONT

Renewal of alien worker's employment

By FERDIE P. DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Q: When should an employer submit to the Department of Labor a request for renewal of a nonresident employee's employment contract?

A: According to the new Alien Labor Rules and Regulations, a request for renewal shall be submitted no earlier than 45 days prior to the termination date of the approved employment contract and no later than 30 days prior to that termination date.

The Regulations state that a request for renewal shall be accompanied by copies of an approved employment contract, an approved health insurance contract, and an approved security contract covering the alien worker to be renewed. An employer may submit a new employment contract with new terms as necessary.

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Q: What are the grounds for Labor to deny renewal of an alien worker's employment?

A: The Regulations state that a renewal may not be granted if the employer has any outstanding payment more than 60 days in arrears with respect to any approved health insurance contract, any approved security contract, or any judgment in a Labor proceeding, except those on appeal.

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Q: Does Labor require a nonresident dancer up for renewal to appear at Labor?

A: Yes. The Regulations require that at the time of submission of a renewal application, the employer of foreign national workers in particular job categories must appear, with the alien worker, at the Labor Processing Division, for an interview. The interview will focus on the terms and conditions under which the alien worker is employed. The particular job categories include dancers, farmers, and masseuses.

No agents or persons holding powers of attorney may appear on behalf of the employer for this interview. A corporate representative may not be a foreign national worker and such representatives shall produce for inspection at the interview sufficient identification and proof of status.

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UN report: Investor confidence in RP improved

By RONNEL DOMINGO
PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

MANILA, Philippines—The Philippines inched up three notches to 96th of 141 economies as a recipient of foreign direct investment in 2007 from 109th in 2005 and 99th in 2006, according to the World Investment Report 2008 of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development.

As a source of foreign direct investment, the Philippines rose in ranking to 49th last year from 59th in 2005 and 67th in 2006.

The report acknowledged efforts of governments to improve investor confidence—especially in Southeast Asia—but warned that the global financial crisis had begun to impact on cross-border investment activities.

UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon said developing and transition economies last year attracted more flows than ever, reaching nearly $600 billion, 25 percent more than in 2006 and accounting for one-third of the global total.

"While global foreign direct investment flows are projected to decline this year, those to developing and transition economies are expected to suffer less, despite the current financial and credit crisis," Ban said.

The 411-page report, the 18th of an annual series, examined the ways, extent and conditions under which transnational corporations could contribute to meeting the needs of developing economies to build necessary infrastructure.

Ban cautioned against unrealistic expectations about the contribution of transnational corporations to an economy's progress. "Companies will only invest in infrastructure projects that can assure adequate returns for commensurate risks," he said.

"It has proven difficult for countries with small economies and weak governance systems to attract transnational corporations into infrastructure," he added.

Ban said the challenge to government policymaking was to create the appropriate conditions to facilitate investments that can contribute to poverty alleviation and accelerated development.

The report's highlights on the Philippines included having the beverage and food conglomerate San Miguel Corp. among the top 100 non-financial transnational corporations(TNCs) in developing economies.

Based on 2006 data, San Miguel ranked 60th in terms of foreign assets, with $2.44 billion; 81st in employment with 4,000, or 29 percent of total employees, engaged overseas; and 67th in spread of operations, with 31.6 percent of affiliates based abroad.

The port operator International Container Terminal Services Inc. was among the 50 top infrastructure TNCs in developing economies in terms of foreign assets, with $287 million of its total assets of $385 million invested overseas.

Included on a 2007 list of cross-border mergers-and-acquisitions transactions worth over $3.0 billion was a $3.4-billion deal between American firm Mirant Corp. and a Japanese group.

A related report, titled the World Investment Prospects Survey 2008-2010, showed that Southeast Asia—along with South and East Asia—remained as the top preferred region for investments.

2M kilos of Chinese milk sold in RP stores

By MARGAUX ORTIZ,
EDSON C. TANDOC JR.
PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

'If it's from China, don't buy it'

MANILA, Philippines—More than two million kilograms of milk imported from China were able to enter the country this year, the Bureau of Customs (BOC) said Thursday.

Customs Commissioner Napoleon Morales said 2,138,397 kilograms of Chinese milk were imported from January to August.

"The milk, both concentrated (sweetened) and not, [were] sold in markets and stores all over the Philippines," Morales said in an interview.

The bureau has identified Fly Ace Corp. and Fonterra Brands Phils. Inc. as the local importers of Chinese milk.

Fly Ace Corp. imports the Jolly Cow milk brand while Fonterra Brands Phils. Inc. is behind the entry of Anchor Wam flavored milk drinks into the country, according to Morales.

Four children in China have died and more than 54,000 have fallen ill after drinking milk tainted with the industrial chemical melamine, which damages the kidney.

Melamine has been found in infant formula and other milk products from 22 of China's dairy companies.

With the world's third biggest dairy sector, China's milk powder exports in 2007 grew to 62,000 tons, an increase of more than 200 percent from 2006.

Six companies

On an unofficial list given to the Philippine Daily Inquirer by a ranking official of the Bureau of Food and Drugs (BFAD), at least six local companies were registered to be importing milk products from China.

These include Fonterra Brands Philippines Inc., Buy Low Discount Store Inc., East Link Ventures, Gentro Philippines Inc., Highmark International Marketing Corp., and Molina & Sons Philippines Inc.

The list, however, did not name the specific milk products of these importers.

The Department of Health has already ordered the revocation of licenses of importers of milk products from China.

Based on its initial findings, the DOH assured the public the country remained free of melamine-laced milk and milk products from China.

"There are no indicators yet that we have been affected," Health Secretary Francisco Duque III Thursday said in a phone interview after he led an unscheduled inspection of stores selling Chinese products in the Divisoria Market in Manila City.

Though he already ordered that children with kidney problems be monitored for possible exposure to contaminated milk, no case has been confirmed to have been caused by contaminated milk so far.

Don't wait for list

Duque reiterated that the DOH had not released any list of banned brands although he said the department would probably release a list of products that would test positive for melamine.

"If the milk is made from China, then don't buy it. They should not wait for a list," Duque said.

AP

Philippine Health Secretary Francisco Duque shows Chinese-made dairy products at a grocery in Manila, Philippines on Thursday Sept. 25, 2008.

PHILIPPINE BRIEFS

4 hurt in Cotabato grenade blast

MANILA, Philippines—Four people were hurt when a grenade exploded inside a residence in Cotabato City late Thursday evening, a police official said on Friday. Senior Superintendent Willie Dangane, Cotabato city police chief, said the incident occurred at past 10 p.m. inside a home located at Barangay (village) Rosary Heights, No. 10. Police identified the victims as Toto Ali, 18; Dudi Hasim, 29; Kamid Ali, 40; and Datu Ali Manguda. They were immediately rushed to the nearby hospital. Police are still investigating the incident. ***(INQUIRER.net)***

Sotto alarmed by growing number of Filipino drug mules

MANILA, Philippines—Dangerous Drugs Board chair Vicente Sotto III raised the alarm on Wednesday over the proliferation of Filipino "drug mules" following the arrest of another compatriot in China on Tuesday night. In a press conference at the House of Representatives, he said the 33-year-old woman was arrested while allegedly trying to smuggle an undisclosed volume of heroin at the Shanghai airport. Sotto said he was not at liberty to identify the suspect, who was facing possible life imprisonment or death. ***(INQUIRER.net)***

1 killed, child injured as 4 vehicles collide at SLEx

SAN PABLO CITY—A vehicular collision involving a 10-wheeler cargo trailer truck and three other smaller vehicles resulted in the death of a driver, serious injury to his 11-year-old passenger and the buildup of a monstrous traffic jam on both sides of the South Luzon Expressway early Thursday afternoon, an officer of the Philippine National Construction Corp. said. The multi-vehicular accident took place at about 2:42 p.m. along the Southwoods exit of the SLEx, near Kilometer 31, said Emmanuel Roque of the PNCC. Involved in the accident were a 10-wheeler trailer truck, two Mitsubishi L300 vans and a Mazda 3 compact car. ***(INQUIRER.net)***

Banca capsizes; 1 killed

COTABATO CITY—A village secretary went missing and was presumed dead when the banca she was riding in capsized while crossing the swollen Rio Grande de Mindanao in Midsayap, North Cotabato, a belated report reaching here said Thursday. Melba Bago, 35, and six other people were crossing the river on Sunday when strong currents overturned their banca, Bai Saria Ali, chair of Barangay Lumupog in Midsayap, said. Bago, the village secretary, fell into the water and was carried away by the current, she said. "Her companions failed to assist her as they too were trying to save their own lives," Ali told the Inquirer. ***(INQUIRER.net)***

2 brothers die in San Mateo landslide

MANILA, Philippines—Two brothers died Wednesday night after they were trapped inside their house following a landslide in San Mateo, Rizal province caused by heavy rains brought by Typhoon "Nina." The Provincial Disaster Coordinating Committee of Rizal identified the victims as 6-year-old Jerico Collado and his 3-year-old brother Juanito of Lower Pulang Lupa, Barangay Sto. Niño. The Collado brothers were declared dead on arrival at the Garcia General Hospital in Marikina City. The boys were trapped inside their house in Pulang Lupa following a massive mudflow in the area. Made of light materials, the Collado house was in a landslide-prone area at the foot of a mountain, said the PDCC. ***(INQUIRER.net)***

De Castro: More protection for Filipino seamen

MANILA, Philippines (AP)—The Philippine vice president called Thursday for added safeguards for Filipino seamen following a sharp increase in the number of attacks by Somali pirates on foreign ships. Records from the office of Vice President Noli de Castro show that 117 Filipino crewmen have been seized by Somali pirates in 11 attacks since April. The pirates have released some Filipino hostages unharmed but are still holding 96 and have not released the body of one who had been killed in still undisclosed circumstances. There were 20 Filipinos seized in one incident in 2006 and 10 in two attacks last year. The Philippines is one of the largest suppliers of crewmen in the international shipping industry. ***(INQUIRER.net)***

3 of 16 trapped miners found dead in flooded tunnel in RP

BAGUIO, Philippines (AP)—Rescuers found the bodies Thursday of three miners who drowned in a flooded underground gold mine in the northern Philippines but said they have not lost hope that 13 other missing miners were still alive.

The bodies of the three miners were found floating in a mine shaft about 700 feet (210 meters) below the ground in the northern mountain township of Itogon. Rescuers did not see any sign of the 13 others before they halted the search at nightfall, officials said.

Nearly 100 rescuers have been battling heavy rains and rising water to look for the miners, who went into the shafts Monday amid a typhoon that rapidly flooded the tunnels, said Neoman dela Cruz of the government's Mines and Geosciences Bureau.

"We're still not discounting the possibility that some of them may have survived down there," dela Cruz told The Associated Press by telephone.

He some of the miners may have found a ledge to stand on in one of the underground tunnels about 400-700 feet (120-210 meters) underground, and they might still be saved if found in time.

Officials asked the Philippine navy for divers to help when the search resumes Thursday.

The underground tunnels, dug decades ago in mountainous Benguet province, were abandoned in the late 1990s by a gold mining company, which posted guards at two entrances to prevent accidents.

The trapped miners—who were working on their own with no permit—dug a narrow passageway to gain access to the tunnels, said George Baywong, another mines bureau official.

In rural Philippines, a severe lack of doctors

By BLAINE HARDEN
(C) 2008, THE WASHINGTON POST

ANAHAWAN, Philippines—The government hospital here is supposed to have seven doctors on staff. But five of them have left the country. They became nurses and are working in the United States.

Their departure is part of a health-care brain drain that is strangling rural hospitals across the Philippines. Health services are declining, and the proportion of Filipinos dying without medical attention has risen to 70 percent—a figure not seen in this country since the mid-1970s.

The Philippines has long been the world's biggest exporter of nurses, sending more than 164,000 of them abroad in recent decades. But since 2000, at least 11,000 Filipino doctors have decided to retrain as nurses and join the exodus. More than 6,000 doctors-turned-nurses have left the country, and about 5,000 more are soon to go, according to the Philippine Medical Association.

They do it for the money. In the United States, a nurse can make 10 times the $4,700 annual salary of a government doctor in this seaside town on the Philippine island of Leyte.

But what about the patients left behind and the doctors who stay in the boondocks to care for them?

At the hospital here, two physicians now serve a regional population of 110,000. To cover for the five doctors who left, they alternate solo shifts. Each works five consecutive 24-hour days, sleeping when and if the workload allows. (Doctors in government hospitals are not supposed to be on duty more than 48 straight hours.)

On a recent Friday morning, four days into his shift, Ernesto J. Cahoy, a physician who is also the hospital's chief of staff, made his daily rounds. The hospital's electricity supply had failed two days earlier, and a standby generator was broken.

Moving through the darkened corridors, Cahoy attended to the needs of 35 patients. He squinted to read their charts in hot, ill-lighted wards where children fussed and adults silently followed him with their eyes.

One very sick man had been admitted the previous afternoon. He appeared to be in his 60s and was severely malnourished. He died while Cahoy was examining him. The doctor did not know the cause of death, nor did he have time to think about it. He closed the man's chart, handed it to a nurse and moved on. Thirteen children required his attention in the pediatric ward.

"We are trying to have a quality service here," Cahoy said. "But even if we try, considering there are only two doctors, the patients will be affected. You are bound to have some lapses in your treatment because you are really tired."

The weakening of health care in the Philippines is an unintended consequence of a decades-old government policy that vacuums professional talent out of the country.

Since the early 1970s, when the government of President Ferdinand Marcos passed labor export legislation, Filipinos have been encouraged to go overseas, work as hard as they can and send money home.

"The government says they are heroes and patriots when they leave," Cahoy said.

In many ways, the mass export of humanity has succeeded. To a greater degree than any other country, the Philippines powers its economy with remittances, according to economists at the University of the Philippines.

Filipinos working abroad sent home $12.8 billion in 2006, accounting for slightly more than 10 percent of the country's gross national product.

Since 2000, remittances have played a substantial role in reviving the Philippine economy, which last year grew at a robust rate of 7.2 percent.

Growth, though, has dovetailed with nearly a decade of shrinking government spending on health care. At the same time, the government has done nothing to regulate the departure of doctors and other health-care professionals.

THE WASHINGTON POST
Ernesto J. Cahoy, 57, is one of two doctors left at Anahawan District Hospital in the Philippines; five other doctors who were employed at the hospital are now working as nurses in the United States.

A bill introduced in the late 1990s to require all graduates of medical courses to serve two years in rural health-care centers died without debate. Last year, a similar bill to require service from graduates of government-funded medical courses also went nowhere.

"We are the only country in Southeast Asia without a national health service requirement," said Jaime Z. Galvez Tan, a physician and professor at the University of the Philippines College of Medicine, widely regarded as the country's best medical school.

Galvez Tan has helped persuade his publicly funded medical school, beginning with the class that enrolls next year, to require three years of post-graduate work in the Philippines. It is the country's only medical or nursing school, public or private, to impose such a requirement.

The Philippines does not yet have a shortage of doctors, just a shortage of them in poor rural areas, according to Rey Melchor F. Santos, a physician who is president of the Philippine Medical Association.

"Most of the rural hospitals do not have enough doctors," he said. "We know there are rural hospitals that are no longer operating because they have no medical manpower."

Across the country, more and more nursing schools are busy turning doctors into nurses. With poorly paid government doctors as their primary source of students, these schools are part of an astonishing spike in nursing education in the Philippines. In less than a decade, the number of nursing schools has almost tripled, from 170 in 1999 to at least 470 now.

As nursing schools boom, medical schools wither, in part because it is much harder for a Philippine-trained doctor to pass medical board exams in a foreign country than for a Filipino nurse to be certified abroad.

Santos said that the global demand for nurses, combined with the convenient availability of nursing schools throughout the Philippine islands, has triggered a 40 to 50 percent drop in the number of students enrolling in medical schools in the past four years.

"The view of greener pastures is making them go directly into nursing," he said. "I guess they are thinking that they might as well go into nursing for a four-year course and skip the nine years of medical training. If this trend continues, then it is going to produce a shortage of doctors in a few years."

The medical association and other physicians' groups here are trying to get foreign governments to acknowledge the adverse consequences of the global job market on the health of poor Filipinos. They want foreign countries to compensate the Philippines for the cost of medical training and for the socioeconomic impact of the brain drain.

"We would like to hold accountable the governments who have imported our people," Galvez Tan said. "Let there be ethical recruitment. They should pay enough to educate three medical professionals here for every one they take away."

Galvez Tan said he has received a sympathetic hearing from government officials in Finland and Canada, but not from the United States.

Asked about the medical brain drain, the American ambassador to the Philippines, Kristie A. Kenney, said that she has "never heard it discussed" and that she doubted the United States could "afford" such compensation.

Here at Anahawan District Hospital, Cahoy said he sees nothing that can be done to keep doctors on staff.

He accommodated the five doctors who retrained as nurses, arranging their work schedules so they could attend nursing school on the nearby island of Cebu.

Cahoy, 57, said he has never seriously thought of becoming a nurse and leaving the country, although his sister, who lives in New Jersey, has told him he should.

The government has invested a lot of time and money in his training, which has included postdoctoral courses in surgery, orthopedics, obstetrics and X-ray examination, he said. "I have to stay," he said. "I owe it to the government."

But Cahoy intends to work here for only three more years.

"At the age of 60, I will have to retire," he said. "I am really tired."

$$$ PERSONAL FINANCE

Teenager wants a credit card

Editor's Note: This is a partnership between INQUIRER.net and Citibank to help readers handle their personal finances well.

Question: My eldest son just turned 17 and is now a senior in high school. Last weekend, he asked me if he can get a credit card. I said I'll discuss it first with his dad. We're not sure if this is a good time for a teenager to get a credit card. What do you think? – Cory M.

Answer: The credit card was designed to make life easier for people — with it, you don't need to carry much cash around, and you can pay your bills, get a cash advance, and make online purchases easily. You can also get a firm handle on your finances by having a credit card as all your purchases per month are summarized in one statement for easy reference.

And with the busy lifestyles of people today, it does make sense to have a credit card with you all the time to meet emergencies and to minimize going to the bank to withdraw cash.

Although credit cards are targeted toward working adults whose capacities to pay have been verified, they may also be extended to minors—the teenagers.

Before you balk on this, remember that a credit card is made to make life easier. It is not a license to charge all purchases—necessary or not—to be paid in the future. The key really is to manage the use of it well.

Over the years, a number of parents have applied for supplementary credit cards to be issued to their children in upper high school or college. They use the credit card as a form of allowance, which can be used by the child for necessities such as gasoline and books. Having a credit card will also allow children who go out of town (some children compete in athletic or academic competitions out of town or abroad) to charge their living expenses. This is also a great help in emergencies should the children suddenly need funds.

Of course, there is the risk that children may overspend. Since they hold supplementary cards, parents are still responsible for paying their bills, and some of them do get the shock of their lives when they get their bill and find that the children have overspent.

There is a safeguard in place to prevent this from happening. With Citibank cards, you can impose a spending limit on your child's supplementary card. The spend cap starts at P5,000 and can be increased in increments of P5,000.

Parent-child talk

Before giving your child a supplementary credit card, sit down with him and lay down the rules. The following rules can greatly help your child learn to manage finances well.

• State when the credit card may be used (e.g., to gas up, buy books, or buy clothes). Discuss when the card may be used in other instances—during emergencies, for instance. Define what constitutes an "emergency."

■ Inform your child of his spending limit. Tell him what would happen if he goes over this cap—his credit privilege will be put on hold and he may be asked to pay for the excess charges.

■ Teach him to budget. It's important for teenagers to know how to budget their money—whether that's cash on their hands or their credit privilege.

■ Teach your child to buy wisely. When he likes to buy something, remind him to ask himself if it is a need or a want. If it is a want, tell him to think twice, thrice, even more times, before buying.

■ Tell him to safeguard his credit card. Because it can fall into the wrong hands, the credit card should be kept safe at all times. Make sure he signs at the back of the card as soon as he receives his supplementary card. Then tell him to not keep it lying around, and to give it only to authorized store personnel for credit purchases.

■ Teach your child online safety. Your child may want to purchase something online. Remind him to observe safety precautions, such as going only to secure websites and logging off properly. Tell him that the bank will never call him to ask for his PIN.

■ Study the bill with your child. When the statement of account arrives, show this to your son and together go over every charge made. This will instill in him the habit of checking his bills before paying for them in the future. Should there be a discrepancy, call the card company in his presence.

■ Keep a photocopy of the credit card. Photocopy the front and back of your child's supplementary card and keep this in a safe place. If the card gets lost or stolen, it will be easy to report the incident.

■ Have your child keep the card company's hotline on his address book. Make sure he stores this number on his mobile phone and is written on his phone book or notebook. If something happens such as the loss of the card, he should call the hotline as soon as possible so the card company can disapprove succeeding unauthorized purchases made by unscrupulous persons using the card.

For more, visit www.usecreditwisely.citibank.com.ph, which offers credit information for teens and adults alike.

Maharlika – PinoyStyle

Pops may spend Christmas with Martin

By DOLLY ANNE CARVAJAL
PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

MANILA, Philippines—Pops Fernandez still cannot decide whether to spend Christmas here or in the US. "Robin and Ram may go to the States to be with their dad for the holidays," Pops says. "But it will depend on my commitments here if I can follow. Of course, I wanna be with my two boys."

Does that mean she's open to the idea of celebrating Christmas with Martin if their sons will be with him? "I haven't thought about that yet. We still have to make arrangements."

Will Mart be singing his signature song "Christmas Won't Be The Same Without You?" for Yule or old times sake?

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Pops Fernandez signs an autograph for a fan.

Birthday girl

Aiza Seguerra celebrated her birthday with her 'Avenue Q' family Rachel Alejandro, Joel Trinidad, Felix Rivera, their groupie Tita Girlie Rodis and the love of her life Chen at Conspiracy Café.

Aiza gamely did an impromptu mini-concert for her guests. Chen's birthday cake to Aiza had a "Miss Bagets" lettering on it. Lil Ms Philippines is all grown up but she remains childlike.

Guess list

■ This actress can no longer contain her desire for her leading man. During a taping lull, she kept caressing the face of her screen partner in full view of the fans on the set. The actor was blasé but his disdain was starting to show. No matter how hard the actress tries, her leading man remains faithful to his girlfriend. Will she attempt to tempt him again and again?

■ This celebrity couple's marital woes never seem to end. Even if they have so much money to burn, their spending habits clash. "Para silang nagdadaigan sa pabonggahan ng lifestyle," reveals their close friend. Full pockets, empty hearts?

■ This new celebrity is always drunk when he faces the cam. First-time jitters or residual effect of alcoholism? Is he ready for his close up or "Bottoms Up?"

'Friendly' advice

Nadia Montenegro is being pinpointed by Gabby Concepcion's manager Rose Flaminiano as the one who talked Gabo into terminating her services due to alleged shady dealings.

"I can't deprive Gabs of knowing the new system in show biz since he's been gone for 13 years," Nadj explains. "Humihingi lang ng ideas and tulong ang friend ko. Does helping him make me a bad person? My relationship with Gabs is on a personal level. Never ko siya sinulsulan. He has a mind of his own. Hanggang advice lang ako. Final say depends on him pa din. But I don't regret having to go through all this trouble for a friend." No matter how close we are to our friends, we can never think their thoughts nor feel their feelings. Gabs and Nadj know that too well.

Harmless date

My item about Angelu de Leon spotted with James Yap, John Estrada and Mico Palanca in Bugsy's elicited a lot of questions. Some even went to the extent of linking Angelu to James. That's stretching it too far. Angelu claims they just bumped into each other at the bar. But an eyewitness insists they were all together. Angelu has nothing to be defensive about a harmless night-out. It wasn't lights out anyway.

Charlene on Kris: Burn no bridges

By MARINEL CRUZ
PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

MANILA, Philippines—"I did not talk about it for fear of being misquoted," Charlene Gonzalez said, days after TV host Kris Aquino apologized for an apparently offensive comment made against the former beauty queen, also a TV host, at a fashion event.

"The industry is so small; we shouldn't burn bridges," Charlene told entertainment writers at a Q11 party on Tuesday.

During the recent show of designer Randy Ortiz at the Edsa Shangri-la Hotel, Kris commented that Charlene was "pastar" because the latter's gown was not in the shade of the set motif. At the end of the show, Charlene confronted Kris, asking, "Do you have a problem with my dress?"

In a text message to "TV Patrol" Kris said, "Obviously, [Charlene]doesn't like me... my mistake was, I gave her another reason to dislike me…so I apologized."

Charlene said she was happy that the public took her side when the incident was reported in the papers. "Nakakataba ng puso. I guess it means that I've planted good seeds through the years."

Charlene Gonzalez

Brit reality TV sensation sings to Manila

By PABLO TARIMAN
PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

MANILA, Philippines—British TV talent search winner Paul Potts, whose rendition of "Nessun Dorma" was seen and heard by 30 million followers on YouTube, will perform for the first time in Manila on Oct. 8 at the Philippine International Convention Center.

Potts will be accompanied by an ensemble of Filipino musicians. He told the Inquirer, "I will sing the 'Brindisi' duet from 'La Traviata' with Filipino soprano Rachelle Gerodias."

Life has certainly changed since he won "Britain's Got Talent" last year, Potts said. For his audition, he sang "Nessun Dorma" from Giacomo Puccini's opera, "Turandot."

"I have gone a long way from cycling 13 miles to work ... to flying thousands of miles for an engagement," he said. "I am fortunate to be able to do what I love doing." His first album, "One Chance," sold 2 million copies last year.

British TV talent search winner Paul Potts.

No expectations

"No two weeks are the same for me these days," explained the 37-year-old British tenor (born Oct. 13, 1970), who has appeared in amateur opera productions since 1999. "Sometimes it's a full week of promotions across Europe. These past two weeks have included performances in Germany at a football match, in a talk show, and a music concert for 11- to 18-year-olds that was attended by 12,000 people."

How did he react when his first recording sold millions? "With absolute disbelief," he said. "Also with incredible gratitude. I thank all those who bought my records and tour tickets"

When he joined BGT, he had no expectations. "In later stages, I worked as all singers do on the show with Yvie (Burnett)," he said, referring to the mezzo soprano vocal coach. "What I learned was to never give up."

What does he require of a voice teacher? "A lot of training is based on trust, you need to respect, and get along well with, a teacher. Yvie is a great teacher and friend."

The son of a bus driver and a supermarket cashier in Fishponds, Bristol, Potts attended St. Mary Redcliffe School, where he developed love of music by singing in the choir at Chester Park Junior School and with other choirs in several Bristol churches.

Almost quit

Before BGT, he said, he had given up on singing due to financial difficulties. He could not work for nearly two years on account of poor health.

"Soon after I returned to work, I got knocked off while biking to the workplace and broke my collar bone," he related. "What has happened in the last 15 months, I would never have predicted. I always regarded singing as something I did for myself, [not] as a career."

Potts doesn't even come from a music-loving family. He got hooked on classical music after watching the Steven Spielberg film, "ET." "I progressed from there to Tchaikovsky, then Brahms and on to Dvorak. Coming across a cheap recording of Jose Carreras, my love of opera began. I heard him sing 'Che Gelida Manina' from 'La Boheme' and there was no turning back."

For tickets to "Paul Potts: Live in Manila!," call (0906) 510-4270.

Maharlika – Opinyon

EDITORIAL

Marcos II

Last Tuesday was the real 36th anniversary of the declaration of martial law. President Ferdinand Marcos signed Proclamation 1081 on Sept. 21, 1972, but it was announced and actually enforced on Sept. 23. It was the beginning of one of the darkest periods in the history of the Philippines, a period that ended 14 years later with the EDSA People Power Revolution.

Journalist Primitivo Mijares, who wrote *The Conjugal Dictatorship of Ferdinand and Imelda Marcos*, said that "Marcos did not panic into dictatorship." A martial law regime was a lifetime ambition for Marcos, who, as a senior law student at the University of the Philippines, wrote a thesis on the wisdom and necessity of a regime of "constitutional authoritarianism." Later, as president, he would often talk about "his youthful ambition for a strong-man ruler of the country" during their weekend conversations in Malacañang, Mijares said.

Mijares said Marcos laid down the infrastructure for martial law as soon as he assumed the presidency on Dec. 30, 1965. His master plan called for running for reelection in 1969 and winning a second term "at all costs"; declaration of martial law "at least one year" before the expiration of his second term on Dec. 30, 1973; packing the Supreme Court with his handpicked jurists by the time he declared martial law; controlling the military establishment; controlling local governments; and positioning his cronies in top posts of sensitive government revenue-collecting agencies and financial institutions.

President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo seems to have studied Marcos' example well. She has apparently been laying down the infrastructure of an authoritarian regime over the past seven years. Consider the following:

1. Despite her promise on Dec. 30, 2002 that she would not run for election because her candidacy would promote divisiveness in the country, she did run and she used all the powers and resources at the command of the presidency to ensure her victory.

2. She has packed the Supreme Court with her handpicked jurists. The Court has ruled in her favor in many cases that could affect her continuance in power, such as the issue of executive privilege. Eleven of the 15 justices were appointed by Ms Arroyo, although, to their credit, some of them have not always voted to favor her interest.

3. She has methodically ensured her control of the military establishment by appointing generals to key positions in government, including those in Cabinet and bureau levels, and pampering generals in the active service.

4. She has gained control of the local governments by releasing billions of pesos in appropriations to them and having bagsful of cash distributed to local officials during meetings in Malacañang.

5. She has positioned friends and cronies in the top posts of financial lending institutions and money-making agencies such as the Government Service Insurance System, Social Security System and the Philippine Amusement and Gaming Corp.

Despite her repeated promise to step down in 2010, Ms Arroyo looks determined to stay in power. The Filipino people must remain vigilant to prevent the imposition of another authoritarian regime. ***(Philippine Daily Inquirer)***

Countdown

There's The Rub

By CONRADO DE QUIROS
PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

The real anniversary of martial law wasn't Sunday, Sept. 21, it's Tuesday, Sept. 23. Martial law was a great lie in every respect, even in its recording of when it happened. Marcos did not declare martial law on Sept. 21, 1972, which was a Thursday; he declared it past midnight the following day, or the wee hours of Saturday, Sept. 23. He made sure it would not be met by violent protests by students and workers, Saturday being a holiday.

But he antedated his order to Sept. 21 because he believed the number 7 and its multiples were lucky for him. Maybe it was. Martial law stretched on for 14 years, plunging the country in deepest darkness.

Can it happen again? That's a question that's gotten a little louder since former Defense Secretary Avelino Cruz sounded the alarm bells on it. He warned that GMA might use the fighting in Mindanao as an excuse to declare emergency rule. "There is always the temptation. We should be vigilant. We should fight any attempt to impose any kind of emergency rule because that's the last thing we need. It will exacerbate the situation."

I myself have little doubt GMA will do everything to stay in power after 2010, and have repeatedly warned so. The reasons fall into the categories of carrot and stick. The stick is that with the plenitude of her crimes against the people, being jailed for corruption like Erap is the least of her worries. Out of power, she will be vulnerable to all sorts of reprisals. The carrot is the sheer need for power, a depth of craving we have not seen since Marcos. With most people, like Erap, power is a means to an end, the end being the many pleasures of life. With some, like Marcos and GMA, power is an end in itself, everything else being a means to it. They cannot exist without power, it's what defines them.

But how to keep it?

I myself do not think GMA will declare martial law of the Marcos kind. It's not that she dare not do it, it's that she need not do it. Marcos declared martial law because he could not mount dictatorial rule without it. GMA need not declare martial law because she has been able to mount dictatorial rule without it. Dictatorial rule defined as rule without the consent of the governed. Hell, dictatorial rule defined as rule that pisses off the governed. That's what we've had over the last four years.

Marcos declared martial law firstly because he could not do anything illegal or unconstitutional without being met by the fiercest protests. An EO 464 prohibiting any public official from being summoned by the Senate without the president's consent; a calibrated preemptive response that scuttles rallies without permit or past a certain hour, or even stops them from taking place altogether; or a Proclamation 1017 that suspends civil rights and allows government to padlock offending newspapers: All these were unthinkable before martial law. Marcos could never prevent the all-powerful Congress from exposing his shenanigans, he could never stop rallies and he could never curtail civil rights. There was a powerful civil liberties and activist movement at the time to stop him dead in his tracks. Marcos tried suspending the writ of habeas corpus after the Plaza Miranda bombing on Aug. 21, 1971, but promptly met with massive protest rallies and had to restore it almost as soon as he suspended it.

Today, GMA commits all sorts of illegal or unconstitutional acts routinely and simply leaves the citizens to contend with them—the latest being the attempted MOA with the MILF, which is fundamentally treason. The citizens are reduced to fighting off the exactions through the courts, sometimes successfully, sometimes not. Even the successes are short-lived. For instance, the Supreme Court under Art Panganiban scrapped EO 464, CPR and 1017, but they're still there. EO 464 has metamorphosed into "executive privilege," the scrapping of CPR has not prevented GMA from scuttling rallies, or preventing them from spilling over, such as the huge one at the height of the NBN hearings, and civil liberties are routinely curtailed, as grimly shown by the killings. The press itself, the last bastion of democracy today, is under attack, journalists in the provinces being murdered with impunity and those in Metro Manila being arrested for libel. Lately, the courts have been allowing the libel cases to be tried in bailiwicks of the plaintiffs again.

Marcos never got to the point where he could routinely use the law to thwart the law until he declared martial law. After changing the Constitution, cowing the courts to submission and later mounting a rubber-stamp Batasan, he could decree pretty much anything he wanted, certain the courts, quite apart from his legal luminaries, would find the legal loophole for it. Even without martial law, GMA has gotten to the point where she is routinely able to use the law to thwart the law. She simply acts as though the Constitution does not exist, certain the citizens won't be able to do anything about it, grown fatigued and cynical as they are, letting the courts, half of whom are for sale (a gross underestimation), find the legal loophole for it. Or failing that, approve it in its new guises.

Marcos declared martial law secondly because having become hugely unpopular during his second term (with no small help from Imelda), he could not move in the face of a solid, united and strong opposition. That opposition came above all from the rival political party, the Liberal Party, and in particular from his nemesis Ninoy Aquino. By 1972, everyone was predicting Ninoy would become the next president of the Philippines.

There is no such opposition today.

Details that breathe life into history

Looking Back

By AMBETH OCAMPO
PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

When Emilio Aguinaldo was in power, he carried many titles: "president" was one, "generalissimo" another, and "dictator" yet another. Because of our experience with Ferdinand Marcos and martial law, "dictator" is seen in a negative way, but during the Philippine Revolution and the Philippine-American War, the context was different.

It is unfortunate that Aguinaldo is just a name in our textbooks, a hero fossilized in monuments of bronze and marble. My mental image of Aguinaldo changed when I visited his home in Kawit, Cavite. There I saw both a hero and a man.

His house is an eccentric architectural marvel, complete with secret passages. Floors open to reveal a hidden staircase, a cabinet opens into a small passage way, the heavy-tone kitchen table covers a dark tunnel that reputedly leads to the town church.

While everyone is busy looking at the famous "Independence Balcony" where the Declaration of Independence was read on June 12, 1898, I try to find photographs of the house as it was in 1898. There was no balcony at the time, and the declaration was read from a window that has since become a balcony for photo opportunities.

The Kawit kitchen is quite interesting. There is an ice box built into a wall that doubles as a staircase to the servants' quarters. The stove and oven even has an ornate cast-iron cover marked "E. Aguinaldo."

Contemplating this kitchen made me wonder what kind of food Aguinaldo ate, what he liked, what he disliked. Jose Rizal recorded in his diary that one of his favorite foods was "sardinas secas," literally translated into "dried sardines" but more popularly known as tuyo. One wonders if Aguinaldo's cook kept a cookbook of the general's favorite dishes and who came to dinner in Kawit. Getting to know what our heroes ate makes us know them better.

Aguinaldo's memoirs do not carry detailed references to food but when his forces were moving northward from Malolos, Bulacan, to escape the enemy, they had to subsist on a very Spartan diet. From the diaries of his companions, Santiago Barcelona and Simeon Villa, we find out what they ate. One of the specialties was called "Banawe Breakfast":

"The so-called Banaue Breakfast is enjoyed every morning by the President and [his] family during their stay in this 'rancheria' [barrio]. It is tasty light and digestible, cheap and easy to prepare. It has been preferred by all who have tasted it and by the President himself whenever he comes to these mountains. It consists of milk and coffee, fried 'camote' [sweet potato], and five to seven millimeters thick of butter. It was named thus by the President."

Today we have "camote-cue" covered in caramelized sugar (I have yet to try fried camote with butter). It must be the local version of French fried potatoes, but can we have camote with coffee?

From the diary of Col. Simeon Villa, there is this entry on March 22, 1901: "Today is the President's birthday. Many people come to greet him."

On March 23, 1901, four years after he became President of the First Republic, Aguinaldo was a prisoner of the Americans having been captured by Fredrick Funston and his merry band of Macabebe mercenaries. Aguinaldo's trek to Palanan, Isabela, gave them a taste of camote:

"There was an abundance of camote, but rice was so scarce that our meals had been reduced to twice a day: the first consisted of camote cooked at nine in the morning, and the second at three in the afternoon consisted of rice and meat. Our ration was one half 'chupa' [one-third of a liter] only, so we never felt satisfied. When meat was not available, and this was really scarce, we had camote tops and pepper leaves cooked in salt and water. Sometimes when rice was scarce, kamote took its place in our afternoon meal, so we had camote the whole day."

They were so sick of it that they started to dream of better food and better places: "One moonlit night the President [and others] agreed that once the independence of the country was declared, we would travel leisurely through Europe and with a budget of one million pesos for expenses."

This was obviously a remark made in jest, a remark made in the wilderness of Northern Luzon, and yet some people have taken it literally, thus painting Aguinaldo in the worst possible way.

I remembered these stray references to food when I visited Aguinaldo's house hoping I would get to know the hero better. I looked at many old photographs and looked at the books in his library. I even contemplated the carabao backrest on his chair. There are many surprising relics in Kawit, like old uniforms and insignia, but the most odd are the pickled appendix of the general together with a dry piece of gauze in a separate bottle, the souvenirs of an appendectomy. These are kept in his medicine cabinet in the middle of many blue bottles of eye drops.

After the operation, Aguinaldo still complained of discomfort. The surgeons opened him up again, only to discover that one of the doctors forgot a towel inside!

I've asked some doctors if this was a case of medical malpractice. They replied that a towel was negligible. But what if they forgot a scalpel?

Such details not found in our textbooks. They may be trivial but they breathe life into our history.

Comments are welcome at aocampo@ateneo.edu.

Samu't Sari

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Fiesta Resort and Spa's September birthday celebrants Jane Maliwanag, Liezel Adelantar and Lulu Thomson smile for the camera before blowing their candles.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Pauline and Edwin pose at PIC's Seaside Grill. Friends wish Pauline a safe and wonderful trip back to the Philippines on Tuesday.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Happy birthday to Mikhail. Greetings come from your Mommy Gumi, Gerry, Tita Bon, and Kuya Oyan.

Birthday girl Nelma poses with Jane, Lany and Carl on Capital Hotel.

WELCOME TO THE CHRISTIAN WORLD

Cristina Magofna, carrying her 2-month-old daughter, Aphrodite Flores Magofna, poses for a souvenir picture with the sponsors after the child's Christening ceremony last Sept 20.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Cristina Magofna poses with her 2-month-old daughter, Aphrodite Flores Magofna, after the child's Christening ceremony last Sept 20.

Eduard Li Manahan III poses with his mom Xian Hua, dad Eduard Jr., and his older brother Jano. The family extends their thanks to the High Pitch Band, which made the occasion more lively and enjoyable. Inset, belated happy Christening and first birthday greetings go out to Eduard Li Manahan III, who celebrated both occasions last Saturday, Sept. 20, 2008, at his residence in Kannat Tabla, Saipan.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Happy birthday to Sergio Balarao. Greetings come from Gerry, Jennifer, family, and friends.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Belated happy birthday greetings go to Ms. Clemens Borjel Devilles, who celebrated her birthday last Thursday, Sept. 18, 2008, at her residence in Kannat Tabla, Saipan. Greetings come from friends.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

BELATED GREETING

Belated happy birthday to Gloria Villanueva who celebrated her birthday last Saturday, Sept. 20, 2008, at her residence in Kannat Tabla, Saipan. Greetings come from her husband Joseph.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Happy birthday to Alexis Louis Adelantar. Greetings come from family and friends.

YoungStyle

Election issues for 2008: The economy

By VALERIE STRAUS
(C) 2008, THE WASHINGTON POST

Q: What should be done about high prices, lost jobs and bankrupt companies?

The U.S. economy is complicated. It even stumps many adults! But there are some basics about the economy that kids should understand — especially since it has become one of the most important issues in the presidential campaign.

What is an economy? It is a system that involves buying and selling goods and services. At the center of any economy is money.

When you go to a store for school supplies, you are buying goods. You can also buy services. You do that when you pay for a haircut.

You can buy a part (a share) of a company, such as Microsoft or Toys R Us. That is called buying stock. You don't buy shares of a company at the supermarket; they are bought and sold on the stock market.

Part of what makes the economy complicated is that all of its parts are connected. When the economy is going well, people have jobs and can earn money to house and feed their families. They also can save money.

Lately the U.S. economy—he world's richest—has been experiencing big problems.

■ Prices are rising. Gasoline has gone up about a dollar a gallon in the past year; and the prices of milk, bread and other foods are way up.

■ Many people don't have jobs. In August, the government reported that the unemployment rate rose to the highest level in five years. Without jobs, it's hard for people to pay for even basic items, such as food.

■ People can't afford to keep their houses. Because of the type of loans some people used to buy houses, the amount of money they have to pay each month keeps going up.

■ The stock market is wacky. When the economy is shaky, people often sell stock because they want the cash (to buy goods and services or to pay bills). When lots of folks do this at the same time, the value of the company's stock falls.

■ Some financial companies are failing. Some businesses that play a big role in the economy made bad investments and were going bankrupt. The government let some businesses fail but is moving to save others by buying their bad investments. This is called a "bailout" and could cost the government a trillion dollars.

The combination of these factors means that people are less likely to spend money. To stay healthy, an economy needs money moving through it the same way your body needs blood moving through it.

Both presidential candidates say that part of their plans to help the economy involves cutting taxes. Taxes are fees that we pay to the government so that it can provide services, such as building and repairing highways. If people are paying less in taxes, then they have more to spend on goods and services. Cutting taxes is a way to get money moving through the economy again.

2009 FAMILY-TAX PROPOSALS

How your family's taxes would change in 2009 depends on income (below) and on who becomes president. Sixty percent of U.S. families are in groups 1, 2 or 3. The richest Americans are in Group 5.

	JOHN MCCAIN	BARACK OBAMA
	Calls for everyone's taxes to decrease. The wealthiest Americans receive the largest tax cut. Says tax cuts help the economy grow.	*Calls for almost all to receive a tax cut, but wants the rich to pay more. Says people with the most money can pay more taxes.*
	CHANGE IN YEARLY TAXES	
1 0 to $18,981	-$21	-$567
2 $18,982 to $37,595	-$118	-$892
3 $37,596 to $66,354	-$325	-$1,118
4 $66,355 to $111,645	-$994	-$1,264
5 $111,646 to $2.87 million plus	-$6,498	+$3,017
$111,646 to $160,972	-$2,584	-$2,135
$160,973 to $226,918	-$4,437	-$2,796
$226,919 to $603,402	-$8,159	+$121
$603,403 to $2.87 million	-$48,862	+$93,709
More than $2.87 million	-$290,708	+$542,882

SOURCE: Tax Policy Center; Urban-Brookings Tax Policy Center THE WASHINGTON POST
Note: The dollar amounts in the five categories are the average for all families in any one income group. Individual families might get more or less depending on their income.

Talking Politics

(c) 2008, The Washington Post

Last week a KidsPost survey asked: What is the biggest issue facing the next president? More than 475 readers responded:

Economy: 44.2 percent
War: 28.5 percent
Environment: 17.1 percent
Education: 5.1 percent
Something else: 5.1 percent

Where kids stand

(c) 2008, The Washington Post

Kids put a number of economic issues high on the list of things they're worried about:

Poverty: 55 percent
Unable to find a job: 41 percent
Environment: 17.1 percent
Weak economy: 36 percent
Trade deficit too large: 20 percent

The concern about the economy is the result of the value of investments (such as homes or companies traded on the stock market) declining ...

Dow Jones Industrial Average (based on the prices of stocks in 30 huge U.S. companies)
Sept. 21, 2007: 13,820.19
Sept. 22, 2008: 11,015.69

... while the prices of goods and services (such as a gallon of gasoline) have risen.
Sept. 10, 2007: $2.81/gallon
Sept. 15, 2008: $3.83/gallon

Sources: Harris Interactive YouthPulse SM survey of 13- to 21-year olds, 2007; Dow Jones; Energy Information Administration

Economy Fact

(c) 2008, The Washington Post

According to the World Bank, the United States is the nation with the biggest economy, followed by Japan and Germany.

How do birds know when to migrate?

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Scientists believe that birds detect changes in temperature and daylight. As the days get shorter and the amount of light decreases, birds produce certain hormones that seem to trigger the drive to migrate.

By VALERIE STRAUSS
(C) 2008, THE WASHINGTON POST

In the fall you can look up in the sky and see beautiful formations of birds flying south.

Birds can't pass a science test, but they know exactly when it is time to fly to warmer climates for the winter and when to go back home. This seasonal journey is called migration.

Scientists believe that birds detect changes in temperature and daylight. As the days get shorter and the amount of light decreases, birds produce certain hormones that seem to trigger the drive to migrate. A hormone is a chemical produced by the body.

These chemicals cause the birds to store up fat in their bodies. The extra fat can be turned into energy that helps keep the birds going on their long flight.

Birds migrate because it is harder for them to find food (especially insects) when the ground begins to freeze. And ducks, geese and other birds that spend a lot of time in water can't break through ice that forms in freezing temperatures.

Some birds start their southerly trek as early as July. Others wait until winter is nearly upon them.

The distances that birds migrate vary according to species. The blue grouse, for example, flies less than a mile. In an odd twist, it goes to a higher, colder spot in the North American mountains where it lives to avoid competition for food at lower levels.

Bird Fact

(c) 2008, The Washington Post

The fastest bird is thought to be the peregrine falcon, which can dive at speeds of 175 miles per hour or more!

Arctic terns fly from the Arctic, at the top of the planet, to their winter home in the Antarctic, at the bottom of the planet. And they go back again in the same year. That's more than 20,000 miles a year. This migratory route is the longest of any animal.

Though most birds fly at heights of less than 500 feet during their everyday lives, many go much higher when they migrate. Some go up to 10,000 feet, or 1.9 miles. An airline pilot spotted bar-headed geese at 29,000 feet. That's 5.5 miles!

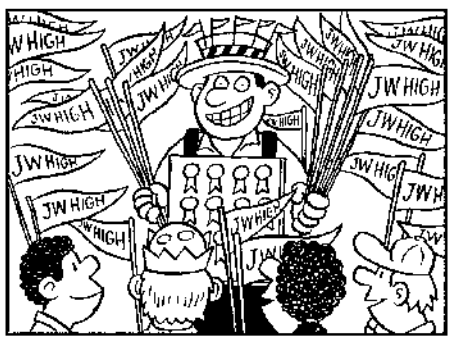
Another amazing thing that birds can do well is navigate.

Some people can get off an escalator at a store and be confused about where they are. But birds can travel long distances and arrive at the same place each year.

Scientists don't know how birds do this. They may have some kind of internal compass that detects Earth's magnetic field and tells them which way is north.

You might think migration would be exhausting. Apparently not. The American golden-plover travels about 2,400 miles, from Nova Scotia to South America, in about 48 hours—without stopping! Birds show signs of being tired but not exhausted when they reach their destination.

It surely is a wonder of nature.

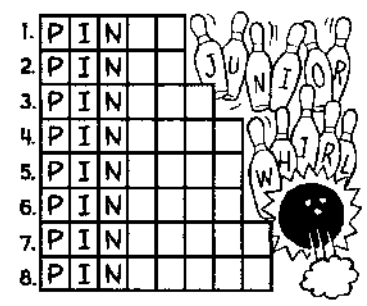


HIP, HIP, HOORAY! The pennant seller is having a "banner" day. How many pennants can you find in the above picture?

Answer: If you found 30, then you're on the winning team.

Junior Whirl

by Charles Barry Townsend



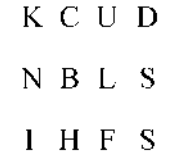
A STRIKING PUZZLE!

Try bowling a perfect word game by identifying all of these "PIN" words. Each one contains the word PIN. Using the following hints, see if you can "mark out" in less than five minutes.

1. Type of horse.
2. Longed for things past.
3. To hold down; shackle.
4. A popular action game.
5. A grasping tool.
6. Type of notched scissors.
7. A sleeveless dress.
8. Precision accuracy.

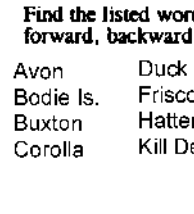
Answers: 1. Pinto. 2. Pined. 3. Pinion. 4. Pinball. 5. Pincers. 6. Pinking (shears). 7. Pinafore. 8. Pinpoint.

ODD MAN OUT!
Can you help this lad figure out which of the five words doesn't belong on the list pictured here?



Answer: The word APPLE doesn't belong. In all of the other words, every other letter is a vowel.

CHAIN REACTION! Take the seven letters printed below the diagram and place them in the circles so that eight four-letter words can be read, top to bottom, along the connecting lines. All the words will begin with the letter in the top circle.



Answers: Top to bottom, left to right: Sags, sage, sane, sank, sine, sink, silk, sill

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Doggone good advice

DEAR PAW'S CORNER: I attended a dog show recently as a spectator. I'm interested in showing my dogs, but am only just investigating the process and learning all the ins and outs. I was amazed at how much incorrect information about the rules was being given out by other spectators (and even owners who were showing). One woman was afraid to groom her dog shortly before their event because she'd been told that if the judges saw her grooming him, they would disqualify them! Please remind your readers who enjoy or compete in dog shows to review the show's rules beforehand and to ignore (or at least confirm) secondhand information! Just a pet peeve of mine. Thanks.—Janine T., via e-mail

DEAR JANINE: You told 'em! While rules vary by show, it does no good for an already-nervous participant to listen to hearsay. There is genuinely good advice to be had from other participants, but always keep a copy of the rules at hand, too.

■■■

DEAR PAW'S CORNER: My uncle says I should use a choke collar on my dog in order to train him right. What's a choke collar?—Brad in Ohio

DEAR BRAD: It's something you shouldn't use on your dog in order to train him right. Pick up a book like "Treats, Play, Love: Make Dog Training Fun for You and Your Best Friend" by Patricia Gail Burnham, and learn about positive obedience training methods that don't involve yanking your dog around or choking him just to get him to heel. You won't regret it.

■■■

Send your tips, questions and comments to Paws Corner, c/o King Features Weekly Service, P.O. Box 536475, Orlando, FL 32853-6475, or e-mail them to pawscorner@hotmail.com.

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Strange BUT TRUE

By Samantha Weaver

■ You're more likely to have a heart attack on a particularly hot or a particularly cold day.

■ Famed actor Gary Cooper was offered the role of Rhett Butler in the film adaptation of Margaret Mitchell's novel "Gone With the Wind," but he turned down the part. He said he believed the movie would be "the biggest flop in Hollywood history." The film went on to win 10 Academy Awards, including one for Best Actor, which was taken home by Clark Gable, who took the part that Cooper refused.

■ It was Albert Einstein who made the following sage observation: "Not everything that counts can be counted, and not everything that can be counted counts."

■ When you think of the Middle Eastern country of Dubai, what comes to mind? If you're like most people, it's probably a vision of sweeping desert dunes. You might be surprised to learn, then, that by the end of this year, the arid country will be home to two year-round snow-ski resorts. Indoor resorts, of course.

■ Piracy—yes, piracy—is on the rise. A recent study shows that between 2000 and 2006, maritime attacks by pirates increased drastically, to an average of more than 350 per year.

■ The modern dishwasher was invented way back in 1886. A woman named Josephine Cochrane came up with the idea because she was unhappy with the way her fine china was being chipped by the servants who were washing it.

■ Those who study such things claim that of those who receive a greeting card unexpectedly, 90 percent immediately call the sender or send a card or letter in return.

■■■

Thought for the Day: "How can a society that exists on instant mashed potatoes, packaged cake mixes, frozen dinners, and instant cameras teach patience to its young?"—Paul Sweeney

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MAGIC MAZE ● OUTER BANKS

W V S Q N K K W A H Y T T I K
D A E H S G A N A I F D A X S
V T A Q O I M O N J H F C A I
Y K I L L D E V I L H I L L S
W U R P L T N K L B N L J O A
H F D B N O V A O Z X V V T R
R Q O A T M R D R C K L I H E
F D M X B Z I O A Y A W V T T
K C U D R E Q O C S I R F O T
N B L S I E K O N A O R C K A
I H F S E V A W D C A Z X O H

Find the listed words in the diagram. They run in all directions - forward, backward, up, down and diagonally.

Avon	Duck	Manteo	Roanoke Is.
Bodie Is.	Frisco	N. Carolina	Salvo
Buxton	Hatteras Is.	Nags Head	Waves
Corolla	Kill Devil Hills	Ocracoke Is.	

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GO FIGURE! by Linda Thistle

The idea of Go Figure is to arrive at the figures given at the bottom and right-hand columns of the diagram by following the arithmetic signs in the order they are given (that is, from left to right and top to bottom). Use only the numbers below the diagram to complete its blank squares and use each of the nine numbers only once.

DIFFICULTY: ★

★ Moderate ★★ Difficult
★★★ GO FIGURE!

	−		x		16
x		+		÷	
	x		+		20
−		x		x	
	x		+		27
23		15		28	

1 2 2 3 4 5 7 8 9

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MAGIC MAZE ANSWER

GO FIGURE ANSWER

3	−	1	x	8	16
x		+		÷	
9	x	2	+	2	20
−		x		x	
4	x	5	+	7	27
23		15		28	

Share everyday moments with grandchildren

Donna's Day — Creative family fun

by Donna Erickson

No matter when they arrive, Karla Nigh's grandkids know they are welcome before they even walk through the front door of her Victorian house, perched on a hillside overlooking North California's Monterey Bay. Lined up in perfect symmetry across a weather-worn bench by the front porch stand four colorful, kid-size watering cans each with the name of a grandchild hand painted across the top.

"When the grandkids come over, we share and celebrate everyday things, whether we're making pizza, watering the flowers or planting a small vegetable garden," said 62-year-old Karla. "I have to confess, we tried to grow pumpkins until the deer ate the plants. That's when the kids lost interest. But today we're out of the garden and off to town for school supplies."

There's more than teaching life skills and memory-making going on when Karla looks at her role as a grandmother. "Parents need a break from the daily demands of raising kids," she emphasizes. "My husband and I invite the grandkids for weekend sleepovers occasionally so that their parents can have time alone. It's important for their marriages; as lay marriage counselors at our church, we see a lot of young, exhausted couples who need a break and time to 'go on a date' with one another without the demands of kids around 24/7," she said. "We can step in once in awhile, and everybody wins."

While you might not have a large garden to tend with your grandkids, or even live nearby, every grandparent has something to offer. Be a fan and show up at your granddaughter's soccer match, rake leaves and get a chore done together, or go out for an ice-cream cone for a Saturday-afternoon treat. Even if you live far away, every gesture is special. Send a text message now and then, e-mail photos or call on the phone and sing a silly song together.

It's the little, simple things that grandparents do with their grandkids that bring them back with smiles time after time.

E-mail tip: If you are a tech-shy grandparent, like my 83-year-old mom, who doesn't use a computer, you might feel like you are out of the family communication loop. We've come up with a simple solution. Now my mom can receive e-mail and full-color digital photos from the grandkids without a computer or Internet connection with a Presto Printing Mailbox and the Presto Mail Service. She simply uses her existing phone line and an electrical outlet. For more information: www.presto.com.

■■■

Donna Erickson's award-winning television series "Donna's Day" airs on public television nationwide. Visit www.donnasday.com to find out when it airs on your local PBS station and to sign up for Donna's e-newsletter.

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Life & Style

Letterman keeps up assault on McCain

NEW YORK (AP)—"Late Show" host David Letterman kept up a verbal assault on John McCain Thursday, saying he felt like an "ugly date" because the GOP presidential candidate backed out of a scheduled appearance on his talk show.

The night before, Letterman had said McCain's decision to suspend his campaign to deal with the economic crisis "didn't smell right." Letterman substituted MSNBC's "Countdown" host—and critic of the Arizona senator—Keith Olbermann when McCain called him to say he wouldn't appear Wednesday.

The comic was unhappy when McCain sat for an interview with Katie Couric instead of him Wednesday—and even more perturbed to learn that McCain didn't leave New York until Thursday.

He said he felt like a "patriot" to let McCain off his commitment to deal with the economy and "now I'm feeling like an ugly date."

"That's what I feel like, I feel like an ugly date," he said. "I feel used. I feel cheap. I feel sullied."

McCain spokeswoman Nicole Wallace said Thursday that the campaign "felt this wasn't a night for comedy."

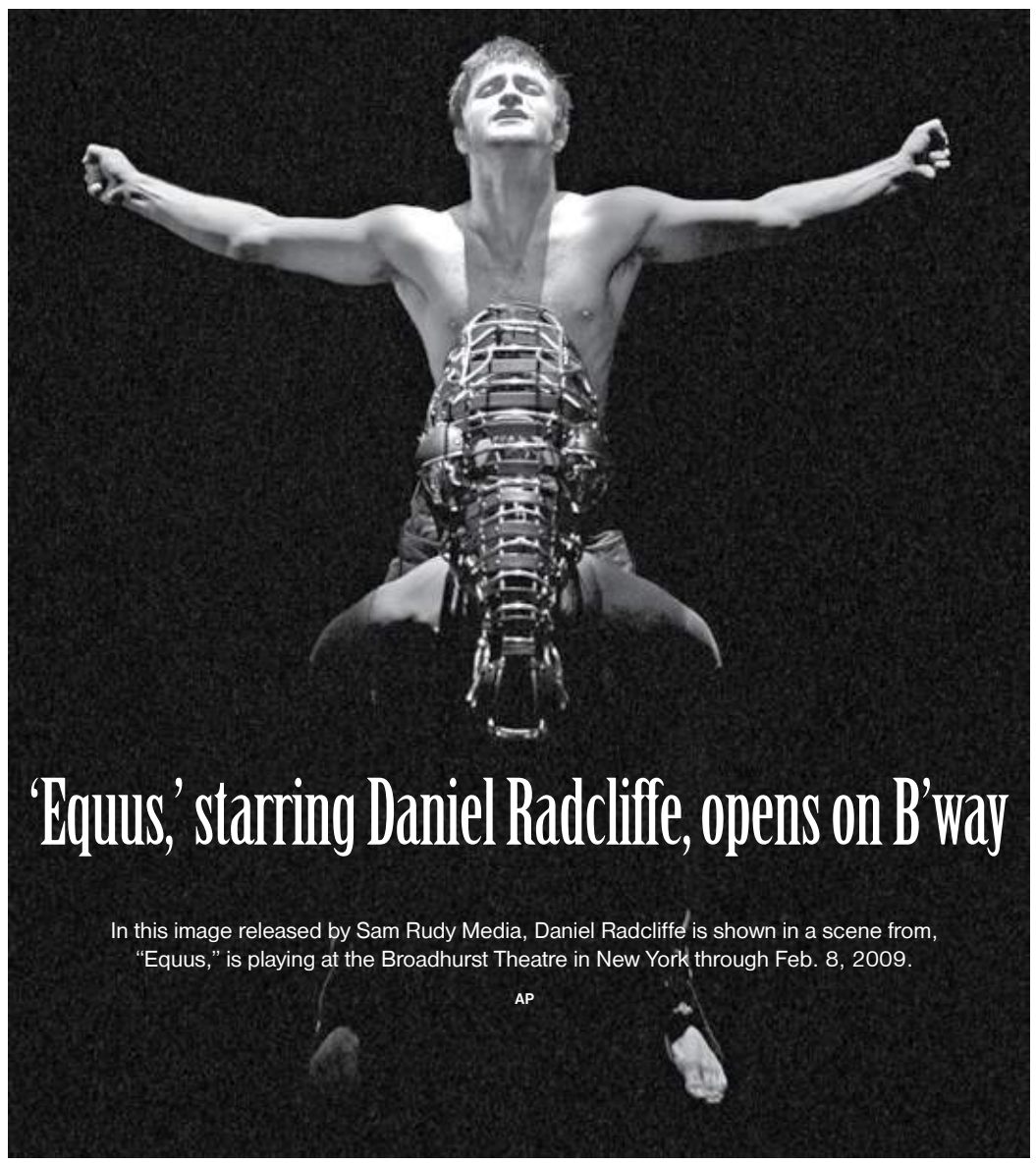
"We deeply regret offending Mr. Letterman, but our candidate's priority at this moment is to focus on this crisis," Wallace said on NBC's "Today" show.

The late-night comic banged away at McCain on Thursday from the opening of his monologue.

"You're here on a good night," he told the audience. "So far none of our guests have canceled."

He talked about daredevil David Blaine's feat of hanging upside down in New York's Central Park for 60 hours.

"They just left the guy hanging there," he said. "It's the same thing McCain did to me last night."



'Equus,' starring Daniel Radcliffe, opens on B'way

In this image released by Sam Rudy Media, Daniel Radcliffe is shown in a scene from, "Equus," is playing at the Broadhurst Theatre in New York through Feb. 8, 2009.

AP

NEW YORK (AP)—All the fuss over Daniel Radcliffe's nude scene in "Equus" makes no sense to the celebrity crowd who came to watch the "Harry Potter" star in the play's Broadway opening.

"If it's in the play, if it's in the story, if it's necessary, then it's right," said Kathleen Turner, who once briefly doffed her clothes as Mrs. Robinson in the stage version of "The Graduate."

The 19-year-old Radcliffe earned rave reviews for his performance in the London production of the Tony-winning play. His portrayal of a disturbed teenager who blinds six horses requires him to strip down—a departure from his G-rated image as the boy wizard in the big-screen adaptations of J.K. Rowling's best-selling fantasy novels.

Radcliffe stars opposite Tony winner Richard Griffiths, who portrays his character's psychiatrist at Broadway's Broadhurst Theatre—as he did in London.

"The fact that he's willing to learn and risk is all to his credit," Turner said of Radcliffe.

Actress Lili Taylor said she was excited to see Radcliffe and Griffiths in the play, and doesn't consider the nudity to be any more shocking than it was it was when "Equus" debuted on Broadway in 1974.

"If it is, I think we have to grow up a little bit," she said.

Judith Light, Glenn Close, Dominic Cooper, Haley Joel Osment and James Lipton, host of Bravo's "Inside the Actor's Studio," also turned up at Thursday's event.

Cooper, now co-starring with Keira Knightley in the film "The Duchess," appeared with Griffith in the Tony-winning play "The History Boys" and its film adaptation.

"I dropped by (the theater) today and wrote some ridiculous scrappy little message to Richard in desperation for a ticket," Cooper said.

McCartney performs for thousands in Tel Aviv

TEL AVIV, Israel (AP)—After a 43-year wait, Paul McCartney performed his first concert in Israel on Thursday, kicking it off with the familiar Beatles' song "Hello, Goodbye" to the joy of tens of thousands of cheering fans. McCartney billed the concert "Friendship First," saying he's on a mission of peace for Israel and the Palestinians.

Singing "Give Peace a Chance," he stopped and let the audience sing the chorus alone. "Here tonight you sang it, you want it," the 66-year-old rocker said. He dedicated the song to his fellow Beatle, John Lennon, who was killed in New York in 1980.

Fireworks lit the sky as McCartney sang "Live and Let Die."

A crowd made up of Israelis of all ages, estimated at 40,000, cheered as McCartney performed outdoors in Tel Aviv's Yarkon Park on a warm late summer night. Some wore T-shirts with the slogan, "I love Paul."

He greeted the crowd with a mixture of English and Hebrew, wishing them "shana tova," happy new year, ahead of next week's Jewish new year holiday. He added "Ramadan kareem" in Arabic, a greeting to Muslims, who are marking their holy month.

His repertoire included many Beatles hits, as well as songs from his post-Beatles group, Wings. The songs included "Yesterday," "Back in the USSR," "Hey Jude" and "Jet." He added two encores.

Nadav Erez, 31, from the central Israeli city of Rishon Lezion, danced enthusiastically throughout the concert.

"He should have come here long ago, he should have come again and again, he should come again and again and again," Erez said.

The Beatles had been scheduled to perform in 1965. But in one of the country's most widely repeated tales, an Israeli official supposedly called off the concert for fear it would corrupt the nation's youth. Only in recent weeks, it turns out the story may not have been true.

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Eagle Eye
Friday 4:20 7:05 9:35
Saturday 1:05 4:20 7:05 9:35
Sunday 1:05 4:20 7:05
Mon and Tue 4:20 7:05
Shia LaBeouf, Michelle Monaghan
Drama • Rated PG 13
Synopsis
Jerry Shaw and Rachel Holloman are two strangers thrown together by a mysterious phone call from a woman they have never met. Threatening their lives and family, she pushes Jerry and Rachel into a series of increasingly dangerous situations—using the technology of everyday life to track and control their every move. As the situation escalates, these two ordinary people become the country's most wanted fugitives, who must work together to discover what is really happening.

Nights in Rodanthe
Friday 4:00 7:10 10:00
Saturday 1:15 4:00 7:10 10:00
Sunday 1:15 4:00 7:10
Mon and Tue 4:00 7:10
Richard Gere, Diane Lane
Romance, Drama • Rated PG 13
Synopsis
Adrienne Willis, a woman with her life in chaos, retreats to the tiny coastal town of Rodanthe, in the Outer Banks of North Carolina, to tend to a friend's inn for the weekend. Here she hopes to find the tranquility she so desperately needs to rethink the conflicts surrounding her--a wayward husband who has asked to come home, and a teenaged daughter who resents her every decision. Almost as soon as Adrienne gets to Rodanthe, a major storm is forecast and Dr. Paul Flanner arrives.

House Bunny
Friday 4:10 7:25 9:40
Saturday 1:20 4:10 7:25 9:40
Sunday 1:20 4:10 7:25
Mon and Tue 4:10 7:25
Ana Faris, Katharine McPhee
Comedy • Rated PG 13
Synopsis
Shelley Darlington, a Playboy Bunny, is living a carefree life until a rival gets her tossed out of the Playboy Mansion. With nowhere to go, fate delivers her to the sorority girls from Zeta Alpha Zeta. Unless they can sign a new pledge class, the seven socially clueless women will lose their house to the scheming girls of Phi Iota Mu. In order to accomplish their goal, they need Shelley to teach them the ways of makeup and men; at the same time, Shelley needs some of what the Zetas have—a sense of individuality.

★ ★ ★

Righteous Kill
Friday 4:25 7:30 9:45
Saturday 1:30 4:25 7:30 9:45
Sunday 1:30 4:25 7:30
Mon and Tue 4:25 7:30
Robert De Niro, Al Pacino
Action, Drama • Rated R

Disaster Movie
Friday 4:15 7:15 9:30
Saturday 1:10 4:15 7:15 9:30
Sunday 1:10 4:15 7:15
Mon and Tue 4:15 7:15
Carmen Electra, Matt Lanter
Comedy • Rated PG 13

Bangkok Dangerous
Friday 4:05 7:00 9:50
Saturday 1:00 4:05 7:00 9:50
Sunday 1:00 4:05 7:00
Mon and Tue 4:05 7:00
Nicolas Cage, Shahkrit Yamnarm
Action, Thriller, Sci-Fi • Rated R

Death Race
Friday 4:30 7:20 9:55
Saturday 1:25 4:30 7:20 9:55
Sunday 1:25 4:30 7:20
Mon and Tue 4:30 7:20
Jason Statham, Tyrese Gibson
Action, Thriller • Rated R

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NY man sues for return of nude Marilyn Monroe pics

NEW YORK (AP)—A photographer is suing two others to force the return of seven nude and seminude pictures of Marilyn Monroe he says were stolen from him.

Monroe

Bert Stern says the photos, taken on assignment for Vogue magazine in July 1962, are worth more than $100,000 each.

He says they were in a series of "unique and irreplaceable images" of the movie star taken at Los Angeles' Bel Air Hotel six weeks before she was found dead from an overdose of drugs. That series was called "The Last Sitting."

The photos show Monroe, the star of "Gentlemen Prefer Blondes" and other movies, in various gently erotic poses behind a piece of transparent white gauzy fabric. The shots were recreated by Stern in a February 2008 photo session with Lindsay Lohan.

The New York photographer says in papers filed in Manhattan state Supreme Court that he lent the Monroe pictures to Eros magazine, a defunct 1960s quarterly, but they were not returned within a few months as expected. He says the photos were stolen.

Stern's lawyer, Stephen Weingrad, says his client learned the photos were being held by Michael Weiss of Mount Kisco, N.Y., and Donald Penny of Briarcliff Manor, N.Y., when they contacted him a few months ago and offered "to do a deal."

The men gave Stern two of the photos so he could authenticate them, but they said he would have to pay for the others, Weingrad said.

He said that after negotiations broke down because the men were too "greedy," Stern requested the return of the other pictures. They refused, so he sued, Weingrad said.

Former astronaut Buzz Aldrin working on memoir

NEW YORK (AP)—Former astronaut Buzz Aldrin, the second man to walk on the moon, is working on a memoir about his triumphs in space and the hard times back on Earth.

"Magnificent Desolation: The Long Road Home from the Moon" will be published next year by Harmony Books, in time for the 40th anniversary of the Apollo 11 landing.

"From the pinnacle of Apollo, my greatest challenge became the human one—overcoming alcoholism and living beyond depression—a challenge that required more courage and determination than going to the moon," Aldrin, 78, said in a statement issued Thursday by Harmony.

"I was 39 years of age, had achieved my grandest goal, and should have been on top of the world, but there were no roadmaps, and few signposts if any along the way that could lead me out of the quagmire into which I had tumbled. For 10 years, I floundered."

Neil Armstrong and Aldrin were on Apollo 11's lunar module, which landed on the moon on July 20, 1969.

"Heroes" star's dad charged with battery

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Prosecutors say they have charged the father of "Heroes" star Hayden Panettiere with misdemeanor battery for an incident in which he allegedly hit his wife.

Alan Panettiere faces up to a year in a Los Angeles County jail if convicted. He was arrested on Aug. 11 on suspicion of striking his wife, Lesley.

Panettiere

At the time, a sheriff's spokesman said Panettiere was accused of hitting his wife three times with an open hand. The 49-year-old was later released on $50,000 bail after the arrest. His arraignment will be held in October at a Beverly Hills courthouse.

Jail records did not indicate an attorney for Panettiere.

Hayden Panettiere plays Claire Bennett on NBC's "Heroes."

Paris Hilton portrait shown in NYC is made of porn

AP

In this Sept. 16, 2008 file photo, actress and model Paris Hilton poses for a portrait at the Thompson Beverly Hills hotel in Beverly Hills, Calif.

NEW YORK (AP)—A well-known British artist is exhibiting collage portraits of President Bush and Paris Hilton he made out of porn magazine images.

Jonathan Yeo's portrait of Hilton was bought by artist Damien Hirst ahead of Thursday's show opening, said Lazarides Gallery spokeswoman Elizabeth Barrett, who didn't know the sale price.

Yeo has painted portraits of Tony Blair, Andrew Lloyd Webber, Rupert Murdoch and Prince Philip.

He got the idea for the collages following the cancellation of a commission by the White House to paint Bush in 2004. He made the portrait, anyway, but in the form of a collage using pieces of pornographic magazines.

Barrett said posters of the Hilton portrait, titled "Paris, 2008," will be sold for $20 each at the gallery.

She said Yeo was offering Hilton proceeds from the sale of the posters as a "lighthearted" gesture because the hotel heiress has said she didn't receive any money from the notorious 2004 sex video that starred her and then-boyfriend Rick Salomon.

Hilton was in New York on Thursday to tape an appearance on CBS' "Late Show" with David Letterman. Her manager did not immediately return a telephone call seeking comment.

DA: LaBeouf won't be charged in crash

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Shia LaBeouf will not be charged with drunken driving for his involvement in a traffic accident that badly injured his hand, but could have his license suspended because sheriff's officials said he refused a breathalyzer test.

There was "insufficient evidence" to charge LaBeouf with drunken driving, Los Angeles County District Attorney spokeswoman Jane Robison said Thursday. She said prosecutors are mulling charges against two other people involved in the July collision, but could not provide further details.

"Shia is most happy that he will not have to go to court," said his attorney, Michael Norris.

LaBeouf was arrested July 27 after an early morning crash that injured his hand and sent him to a hospital for several days. Sheriff's deputies said later that LaBeouf was not at fault in the accident, which occurred in West Hollywood.

The "Transformers" actor faces a traffic hearing with the Department of Motor Vehicles on Friday that could see his driver's license suspended for up to nine months, Los Angeles Sheriff's Department spokesman Steve Whitmore said Thursday.

LaBeouf

But Norris said he doubts the actor will lose his license.

"I anticipate that once we do have the opportunity to litigate the matter at the DMV that his license will not be suspended," Norris said. The DMV hearing is not a court hearing and is not open to the public, Norris said.

Whitmore reiterated what police said the day after the crash: that LaBeouf showed signs of being impaired the morning of the crash, but refused a breathalyzer test.

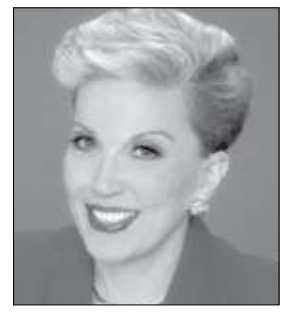
"The physical signs led to the arrest," Whitmore said, adding that the department respects the district attorney's decision.

A spokeswoman for LaBeouf had no comment Thursday.

The crash occurred during a busy summer for LaBeouf, who costarred in the fourth installment of the "Indiana Jones" films and was filming a "Transformers" sequel.

In-laws' racist jokes cause new bride concern for future

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE


Dear Abby

DEAR ABBY: I recently married "Matt," the man of my dreams. We want to have children someday. Although I love Matt, I do not love the other men in his family—specifically his father and his brothers. I'm worried about the negative influence they may have on our children.

These people swear and make racist comments and jokes in front of their children. Matt has spoken to them about it in front of me, but it hasn't stopped them or altered the way they act.

I'm an adult. I understand that these people haven't had the same educational opportunities and positive parental guidance that I was fortunate enough to have, but I worry about the influence they may have on our children. I don't want to ruin my husband's relationship with his family, but if they won't cut out the comments, I don't see how I can allow them to be a part of our children's lives. Please help.

DISTRESSED NEW WIFE IN VERMONT

DEAR NEW WIFE: I don't know how tied into this family your husband is, but it may not be possible to totally separate your children from their grandparents, aunts, uncles and cousins—unless you plan to move across the country. Obviously, you married the "pick of the litter."

Please keep in mind that every family has its own standards of what is acceptable and what isn't, and yours will be no exception. You will educate your children to a higher level, and reinforce the qualities you and your husband feel are important not only by modeling good behavior for them and praising them when they emulate it, but also by pointing out what is unacceptable and telling them why. It's a more effective way to teach children their values rather than isolating them.

■ ■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: A dear friend, "Claudia," is flying across the state to stay with me and my fiance for a long weekend. She asked if she could borrow my vehicle to visit a couple of her relatives, and I agreed. However, I have since learned that Claudia plans to visit more relatives during that weekend than the two she mentioned. I am now hesitant about loaning her my car.

The relatives she plans to visit don't live close by. They live an hour away from us. Claudia has offered to pay for the gas, but it's the wear and tear on my car that worries me. It's an older model.

Would it be unreasonable for me to tell her that she needs to rent a vehicle if she plans on visiting so many relatives so far away? Also, am I wrong in thinking that if you say you are coming to visit a friend, you should spend the majority of your time with her, and not running around visiting everyone else?

HESITANT HOSTESS IN IDAHO

DEAR HESITANT HOSTESS: No, you're not wrong. Aside from the wear and tear on your car, what you're really objecting to is being used as a jumping-off place while Claudia traipses around. By all means tell her to rent a vehicle during her visit. Before agreeing to loan your car, you should have checked your insurance policy. It's possible that if some kind of mishap occurred while she was at the wheel, you would not be covered.

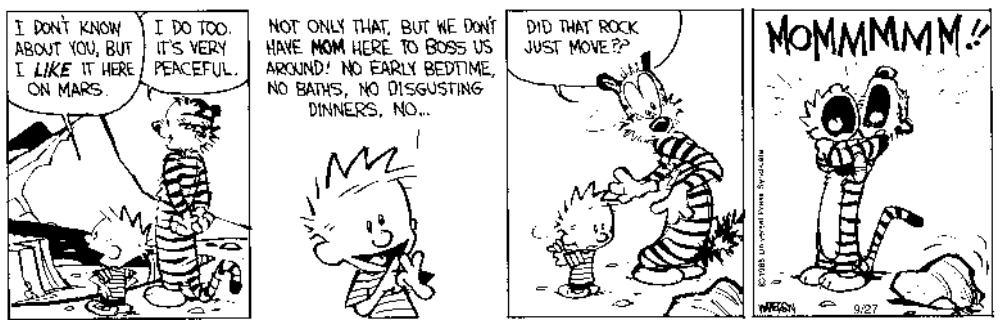
Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Write Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

For an excellent guide to becoming a better conversationalist and a more attractive person, order "How to Be Popular." Send a business-size, self-addressed envelope, plus check or money order for $6 (U.S. funds only) to: Dear Abby Popularity Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Postage is included.)

Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson


I DON'T KNOW ABOUT YOU, BUT I LIKE IT HERE ON MARS.
I DO TOO. IT'S VERY PEACEFUL.
NOT ONLY THAT, BUT WE DON'T HAVE MOM HERE TO BOSS US AROUND! NO EARLY BEDTIME, NO BATHS, NO DISGUSTING DINNERS, NO...
DID THAT ROCK JUST MOVE?
MOMMMMM!!
9/27

Garfield®

By Jim Davis

Adam@home

By Bryan Basset

The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy

CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

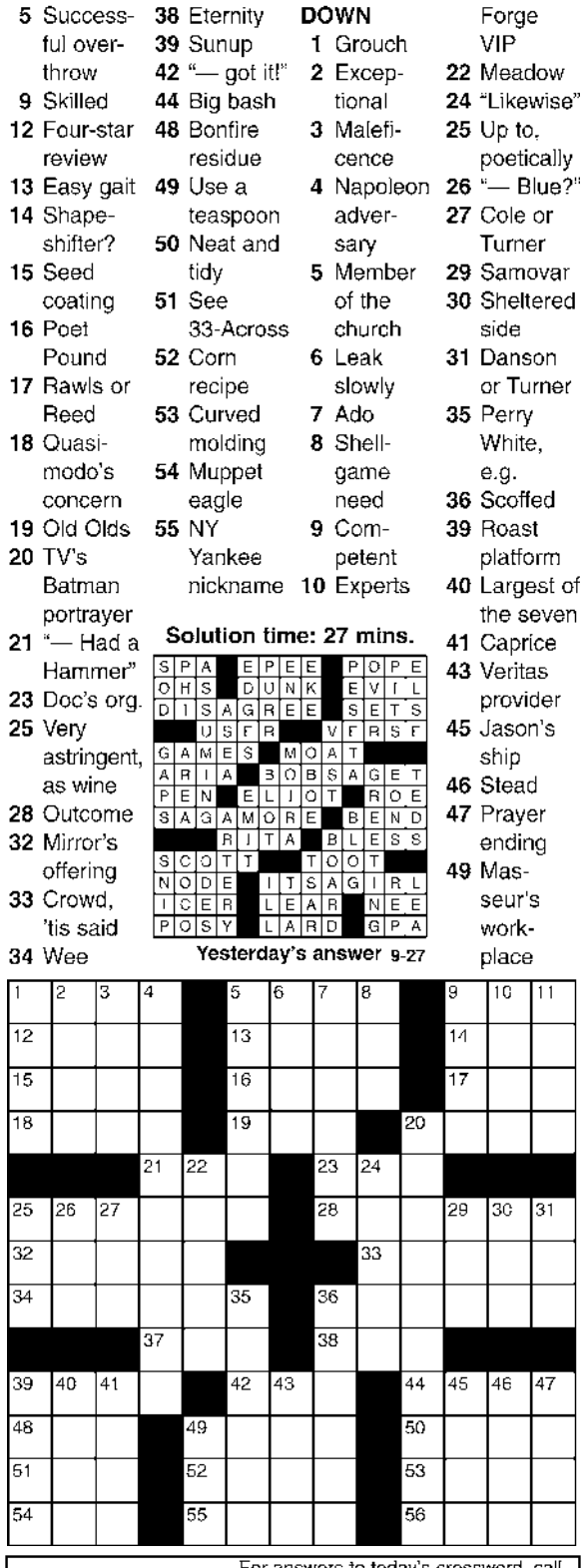
ACROSS
1 Group of sailors
5 Successful overthrow
9 Skilled
12 Four-star review
13 Easy gait
14 Shape-shifter?
15 Seed coating
16 Poet Pound
17 Rawls or Reed
18 Quasimodo's concern
19 Old Olds
20 TV's Batman portrayer
21 "— Had a Hammer"
23 Doc's org.
25 Very astringent, as wine
28 Outcome
32 Mirror's offering
33 Crowd, 'tis said
34 Wee
36 Connected
37 Peculiar
38 Eternity
39 Sunup
42 "— got it!"
44 Big bash
48 Bonfire residue
49 Use a teaspoon
50 Neat and tidy
51 See 33-Across
52 Corn recipe
53 Curved molding
54 Muppet eagle
55 NY Yankee nickname
56 Subject matter?

DOWN
1 Grouch
2 Exceptional
3 Maleficence
4 Napoleon adversary
5 Member of the church
6 Leak slowly
7 Ado
8 Shell-game need
9 Competent
10 Experts
11 Lacking slack
20 Valley Forge VIP
22 Meadow
24 "Likewise"
25 Up to, poetically
26 "— Blue?"
27 Cole or Turner
29 Samovar
30 Sheltered side
31 Danson or Turner
35 Perry White, e.g.
36 Scoffed
39 Roast platform
40 Largest of the seven
41 Caprice
43 Veritas provider
45 Jason's ship
46 Stead
47 Prayer ending
49 Masseur's workplace

Solution time: 27 mins.

S	P	A		E	P	E	E		P	O	P	E
O	H	S		D	U	N	K		E	V	I	L
D	I	S	A	G	R	E	E		S	E	T	S
		U	S	F	R			V	F	R	S	F
G	A	M	E	S		M	O	A	T			
A	R	I	A		B	O	B	S	A	G	E	T
P	E	N		E	L	J	O	T		R	O	E
S	A	G	A	M	O	R	E		B	E	N	D
			R	J	T	A		B	L	E	S	S
S	C	O	T	T			T	O	O	T		
N	O	D	E		I	T	S	A	G	I	R	L
I	C	E	R		L	E	A	R		N	E	E
P	O	S	Y		L	A	R	D		G	P	A

Yesterday's answer 9-27



STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call **1-900-226-5955**! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Avril Lavigne, 24; Stephan Jenkins, 44; Shaun Cassidy, 50; Meat Loaf, 61

Happy Birthday: Look at the possibilities that exist pertaining to home, family and location. Personally, financially and professionally there are good things heading your way if you are willing to make the adjustments necessary. Now is not the time to procrastinate or to see things as being too difficult. Your numbers are 5, 14, 17, 20, 26, 35, 42

ARIES (*March 21-April 19*): Don't play games. If you want something, ask for it. Love is in the stars and you can make an emotional move that will contribute to your current relationship or, if single, get you into one. ✪✪✪

TAURUS (*April 20-May 20*): A trip that takes you back to your roots will be enlightening. An old love will surface but, before you become too curious, remember why you broke up the first time. Weigh the cost involved. ✪✪✪✪

GEMINI (*May 21-June 20*): A makeover of sorts will lift your spirits and help you get your confidence back on track. A friendly chat with someone who works in an industry that interests you will be constructive. Don't let anyone hold you back for his or her own selfish reasons. ✪✪

CANCER (*June 21-July 22*): Invite people over to your place. Include someone you want to do business with and, before you know it, you will have negotiated yourself into a great position with plenty of opportunity. Be stern but friendly. ✪✪✪✪

LEO (*July 23-Aug. 22*): Plan your work schedule so you can explore possibilities for your own business or financial freedom. You can send out resumes, talk to people in high positions or attend a network function successfully. Run your ideas by someone you respect. ✪✪✪

VIRGO (*Aug. 23-Sept. 22*): It's time to turn things around. You know exactly what to do, so don't waste any more time. Someone will present you with an offer, opportunity or proposal that will be hard to turn down. Make sure your motives are right. ✪✪✪

LIBRA (*Sept. 23-Oct. 22*): Open your door to someone in need. By offering help to others, you will set the stage for an interesting venture. Someone will contribute to your cause because he or she believes in what you are trying to do. Children will inspire you to do more. ✪✪✪

SCORPIO (*Oct. 23-Nov. 21*): Looking back will help you leap forward. Trust in your own instincts, not what someone else tells you. A creative way around rules and regulations will ensure you finish what needs to be done on time. ✪✪✪✪

SAGITTARIUS (*Nov. 22-Dec. 21*): Uncertainty regarding where you are geographically located will get you thinking about making a move. Don't let someone stall you because he or she is being selfish. Set your goals and strive to get them underway, regardless of the opposition you face. ✪✪

CAPRICORN (*Dec. 22-Jan. 19*): You can work toward completion of a lingering settlement or legal matter. Once you gather up all the information you need, it will only be a matter of formality to get things tied up. Money is coming down the pipeline. ✪✪✪✪✪

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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AQUARIUS (*Jan. 20-Feb. 18*): Do not put up with someone's bickering. Leave if you must but do not argue with someone who is out of control and won't budge. You may want to rethink your relationship with this person. ✪✪✪

PISCES (*Feb. 19-March 20*): A partnership can be formed that will enable you to get an idea you have off the ground. Someone from your past with talent and dedication, will be instrumental in making your idea work. You may have to treat this situation delicately but nothing is impossible. ✪✪✪

Birthday Baby: You are outgoing, outspoken and sometimes a little outrageous. You are persistent, practical and organized, making you reliable.

Eugenia's Web sites: ***astroadvice.com*** *for fun,* ***eugenialast.com*** *for confidential consultations*

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku *By Dave Green*

1				6				8
	9		5		7		4	
	7	4				8	2	
				8				
	5	3				6	9	
	4		8		9		7	
9				2				3

Difficulty Level ★★★★ 9/27

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's SUDOKU Answer

1	9	3	7	6	8	4	2	5
6	5	4	2	9	1	3	8	7
2	7	8	3	5	4	6	9	1
3	4	2	5	8	7	1	6	9
5	1	9	4	3	6	8	7	2
8	6	7	9	1	2	5	4	3
7	2	5	8	4	3	9	1	6
9	8	6	1	7	5	2	3	4
4	3	1	6	2	9	7	5	8

Difficulty Level ★★★★ 9/26

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WONDERWORD

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally, even backward. Find them and **CIRCLE THEIR LETTERS ONLY. DO NOT CIRCLE THE WORD.** The leftover letters spell the Wonderword.

INTEGRATING IMMIGRANTS Solution: 9 letters

D	S	T	T	P	R	I	N	C	I	P	L	E	S	V
O	E	O	N	O	B	E	N	E	F	I	T	S	T	A
O	T	M	B	E	C	A	R	R	T	I	E	N	G	L
H	T	A	O	S	M	U	D	E	R	L	E	N	A	U
R	L	W	C	G	T	Y	R	N	O	M	I	W	O	E
O	E	E	O	L	R	A	O	R	E	V	S	S	P	S
B	M	L	U	R	C	A	C	L	I	G	A	K	P	T
H	E	C	R	Y	K	N	P	L	P	C	A	I	O	U
G	N	O	S	S	L	M	A	H	E	M	U	L	R	D
I	T	M	E	A	I	N	R	A	I	S	E	L	T	Y
E	I	I	S	T	G	I	T	R	D	C	E	S	U	E
N	M	N	F	U	N	D	S	M	E	A	I	R	N	M
R	E	G	A	R	D	E	J	O	B	S	P	H	I	O
R	E	G	I	O	N	A	L	N	I	A	R	T	T	H
P	E	O	P	L	E	L	O	Y	A	L	T	Y	Y	E

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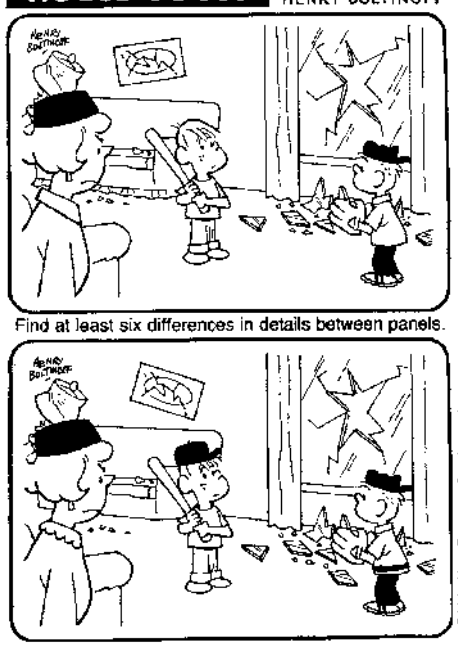
Adapt, Agenda, Benefits, Courses, Culture, Curriculum, Demographic, Employment, Ethic, Funds, Harmony, Hire, Home, Ideal, Implement, Jobs, Labor, Language, Laws, Literacy, Living, Loyalty, Neighborhood, Obstacles, Opportunity, Part, People, Principles, Regard, Regional, Rite, Roles, Settlement, Skills, Study, Time, Train, Values, Welcoming, Work

Yesterday's Answer: Rutaceae

HOCUS-FOCUS

BY HENRY BOLTINOFF



Find at least six differences in details between panels.

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Differences: 1. Catcher's shirt has a stripe. 2. Batter has a hat. 3. Mom's collar is different. 4. Sofa has no ruffle. 5. Picture is tilted differently. 6. There's more glass on floor.

Wishing Well®

2	7	5	4	2	5	7	4	8	7	2	8	2
C	G	S	L	A	T	L	I	S	O	R	U	E
4	6	8	3	5	2	4	2	4	7	8	5	6
F	N	C	E	A	F	E	O	I	R	C	Y	E
2	6	4	6	3	5	3	6	7	3	6	8	6
R	W	N	K	X	N	P	N	Y	E	O	E	W
3	5	6	4	3	4	5	6	3	5	4	3	8
C	E	L	B	T	A	U	E	T	T	L	O	S
6	5	7	2	8	3	6	4	8	2	3	7	6
D	R	F	O	S	W	G	A	C	T	I	R	E
7	2	7	3	8	2	7	8	4	7	5	4	5
O	H	M	N	L	E	C	O	N	H	A	C	L
7	8	7	8	4	8	7	8	2	7	2	7	7
I	S	L	E	E	B	D	Y	R	R	S	E	N

HERE IS A PLEASANT LITTLE GAME that will give you a message every day. It's a numerical puzzle designed to spell out your fortune. Count the letters in your first name. If the number of letters is 6 or more, subtract 4. If the number is less than 6, add 3. The result is your key number. Start at the upper left-hand corner and check one of your key numbers, left to right. Then read the message the letters under the checked figures give you.

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Super Crossword

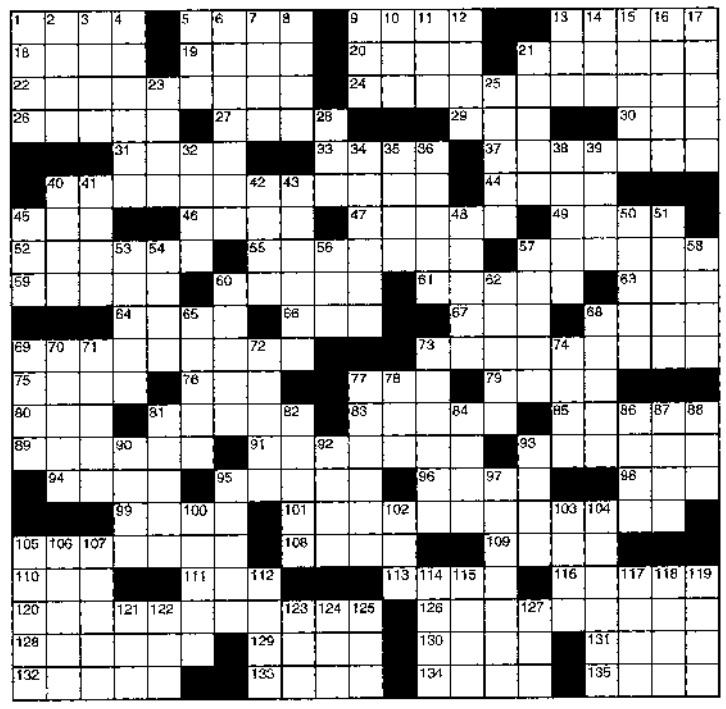
STRICTLY SPEAKING

ACROSS

1 Summer stinger
5 Sailor's quaff
9 In the sack
13 Master, in Madras
18 "Dies —"
19 Melodious McEntire
20 —— Valley, CA
21 Walked confidently
22 Tenured?
24 Ex-wife, sometimes?
26 Roman official
27 Umps
29 Bus. bigwig
30 Plant part
31 Writer Blyton
33 Tabula —
37 At full tilt
40 Violin bows?
44 Evils
45 Terry-cloth inscription
46 Cookbook author Rombauer
47 Deed
49 Wraps up
52 Incompetent
55 Neighbor of Latvia
57 TV's "The — Game"
59 Melodramatic
60 Progress
61 Chaka Khan's group
63 Pigeon English?
64 To boot
66 Spud bud
67 Bulldog, for one
68 "Blame — Rio" ('84 film)
69 Capone impersonator?
73 Hire a private eye?
75 Landed
76 Palm Sunday animal
77 Humbug lead-in
79 Act like an antelope
80 Oxford figure
81 Vote in
83 "Watership Down" author
85 Defy a dictator
89 Salad veggie
91 Geronimo's birthplace
93 Draw
94 Donated
95 Swedish currency
96 Mardi —
98 It may be white
99 Signor Ferrari
101 Stockbrokers?
105 Petite pet
108 Blood components
109 Kid at court
110 Former govt. agcy.
111 Carpenter —
113 Wine valley
116 Exit
120 FDA-approved snack?
126 "Equus," for instance?
128 Inventor Otis
129 Dingy digs
130 Pat on the buns?
131 Kuwaiti ruler
132 Blackboard
133 Type of chalcedony
134 Holler
135 Odense denizen

DOWN

1 Man's altar ego?
2 Like the Kalahari
3 Agra attire
4 Prepared a pineapple
5 Whippet's warning
6 Keep the shelves stocked
7 Crumhorn cousin
8 Sail support
9 Furniture wood
10 Jacket info
11 Big bird
12 — brakes
13 Canonized Mlle.
14 "— you for real?"
15 Was an optimist
16 Unimprovable
17 Juicy fruit
21 Toast word
23 Await judgment
25 Macabre
28 — Lanka
32 Tennis pro Nastase
34 Moss Hart's autobiography
35 "— Game" ('71 film)
36 Up and about
38 Requests
39 Ain't right?
40 Spanish sherry
41 Author Dinesen
42 "Peter Pan" pirate
43 Tried a mouthful
45 "What?"
48 Crack up
50 Proclamations
51 A nose that shows
53 Coat-of-arms figure
54 Lovett or Waggoner
56 Italian greyhound, e.g.
57 Ignoramus
58 Used up
60 Gaggle gal
62 Wood and gas
65 Sedimentary stuff
68 Force
69 Lose luster
70 "— Comes Mary" ('66 song)
71 Dano or Darnell
72 Messy Madison
73 Nickels and dimes
74 Designer Lagerfeld
77 Church sale
78 Bustle
81 Happening
82 Latin class no-nos
84 Scratches the surface
86 Zodiac animal
87 Buffalo waterfront
88 Actor Horsley
90 Currier's partner
92 Memo start
93 On a whale watch, perhaps
95 Asian nation
97 Clothes
100 African equine
102 Quayle or Blocker
103 Eye appreciatively
104 Acted like a chick
105 Garden supplies
106 In the slightest degree
107 "GoodFellas" group
112 Return address?
114 "Hi, sailor!"
115 Battery part
117 — mater
118 Self-smitten
119 Thornfield governess
121 Cornerstone abbr.
122 "Evita" character
123 "— -Tiki"
124 TV Tarzan
125 King's handle?
127 Costa del —



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Trivia test

by Fifi Rodriguez

1. LITERATURE: Which major poet published only seven poems during her lifetime?
2. PSYCHOLOGY: What is someone who suffers from amathophobia afraid of?
3. FAMOUS QUOTATIONS: Who said, "We could never learn to be brave and patient, if there were only joy in the world."
4. GEOGRAPHY: How many states border the state of Tennessee?
5. INVENTION: Which early American leader invented the dumbwaiter?
6. ASTRONOMY: What is a maria?
7. GENERAL KNOWLEDGE: Which city's transportation system was designated as a special moving National Historic Landmark?
8. MYTHOLOGY: Where did Orpheus have to visit in his attempt to rescue his wife Eurydice?
9. ANATOMY: What is manufactured in bone marrow?
10. GAMES: How many points does a traditional star-shaped Chinese Checker board have?

Answers

1. Emily Dickinson
2. Dust
3. Helen Keller
4. Eight
5. Thomas Jefferson
6. A dark region on the surface of the Moon.
7. San Francisco, for its cable cars.
8. Hades
9. Blood cells
10. Six

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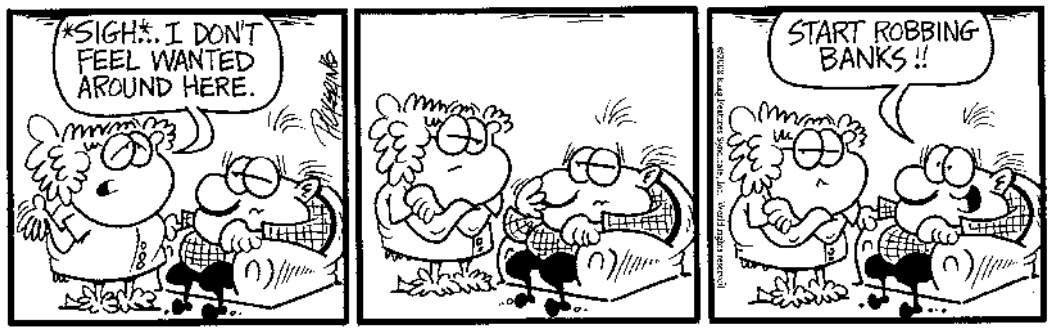
Saturday's Answers

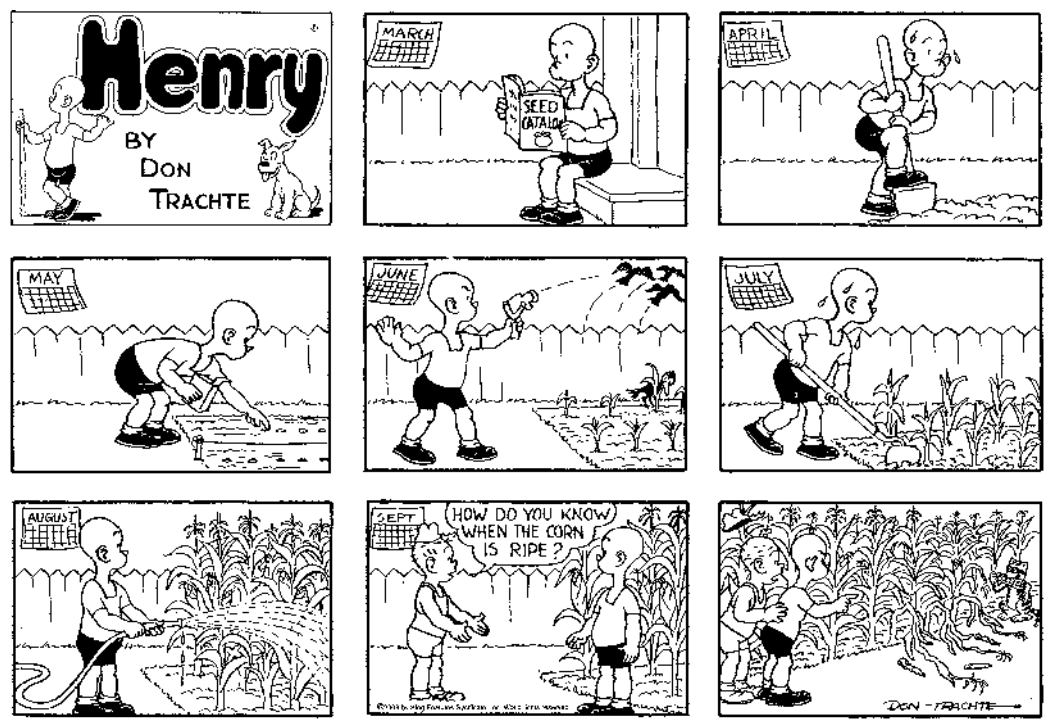
POPEYE
HEY OLIVE OYL
DOESN'T ANYTHING FRIGHTEN YOU, POPEYE?
METEORIKES... BUT THA'S ABOUT ALL!
METEORITES!
WHY ARE METEORITES THE ONLY THING THAT FRIGHTENS YOU?
CUZ YA NEVER KNOW WHEN ONE IS GONNA FALL OUTA ORBIK!
IT KIN BE A SUNNY DAY LIKE T'DAY...
...AN' YER WALKIN' ALONG MINDIN' YER BIZNESS...
...AN' ALL OF A SUDDEN WITH NO WARNIN'
...OUTA THE BLUE...
BAM
YIKES!
SORRY ABOUT THAT, GENTS... IT WAS AN ACCIDENT!
SEE WOT I MEAN?

Amber Waves by Dave T. Phipps

The Spats by Jeff Pickering



MARK TRAIL
THE EVERGLADES IN FLORIDA WAS ONCE THOUGHT TO BE A WORTHLESS MORASS AND AN OBSTACLE TO CIVILIZATION AND PROGRESS...
AND WE THOUGHT IT WAS OUR DUTY TO TURN THE "GODFORSAKEN" SWAMP INTO SPACE FOR CROPS, COMMUNITIES AND COMMERCIAL VENTURES
THE EVERGLADES IS AN AREA LARGER THAN THE STATE OF CONNECTICUT THAT IS NOT QUITE WATER AND NOT QUITE LAND... SEMINOLE INDIANS CALLED IT PA-HAY-OKEE, OR GRASSY WATER
AFTER SPENDING MILLIONS OF DOLLARS AND EXPERIMENTING WITH MANY FAILED ATTEMPTS TO CHANGE THE WORLD'S LARGEST WETLANDS...
WE HAVE FINALLY REALIZED IT IS ONE OF OUR NATIONAL TREASURES, AND HOPEFULLY, GOVERNMENT-FUNDED RESTORATION EFFORTS WILL SAVE THIS GREAT ECOSYSTEM
THOUSANDS OF ANIMALS MAKE THEIR HOME IN THE MARSH, AND IT IS THE ONLY PLACE ON EARTH WHERE FRESHWATER ALLIGATORS AND CROCODILES LIVE SIDE BY SIDE
JACK ELROD



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235- NEWS

Record-setting Patriots WR Troy Brown retires

FOXBOROUGH, Mass. (AP)—Troy Brown was too short and too slow. He couldn't make the big play. His NFL career was bound to be brief.

Wrong. Wrong. Wrong.

In 15 NFL seasons, all with the New England Patriots, the eighth-round draft choice kept disproving those assumptions. Brown holds the team record for career catches—and also returned punts and kickoffs, made interceptions and helped win three championships.

Finally, the 5-foot-10 wide receiver decided he can't keep up with younger players.

Belichick recalled Brown's 27-yard punt return to the Patriots 46-yard line in the snowy "tuck rule" playoff game on Jan. 19, 2002. That set up Adam Vinatieri's tying 45-yard field goal with 27 seconds left in the fourth quarter after an apparent fumble by Tom Brady was ruled an incompletion.

"Without the punt return to set that up and put us in field position where we could at least get in field goal range, I don't know if there ever is a kick," Belichick said.

Two weeks after that 16-13 overtime win against Oakland, the Patriots won their first Super Bowl.

seasons when he could have made more money elsewhere.

"I would give anything in the world to be able to put those pads on again and do it and I probably had the opportunity to do it, but it just wasn't the right color. I didn't think I would be in green and white," he said, an apparent reference to the New York Jets.

"The only colors you'll ever see on my back as a football player, that's the red, white and blue of the New England Patriots, and I'm proud to say that."

New England drafted Brown out of Marshall in 1993 and he holds the club record with 557 catches. He's second with

the consummate Patriot."

Brown began last season on the physically unable to perform list before being activated with five games left. He was inactive for all but one, against Miami in the next-to-last game in which he fielded six punts but had no receptions and didn't play defense.

The Patriots plan to honor Brown on Nov. 13, when the Jets visit New England.

"He had such a presence in the locker room and was a great leader," quarterback Matt Cassel said. "A lot of these Super Bowl banners that are hanging up around the stadium have a lot to do with Troy Brown."

AP

New England Patriots wide receiver Troy Brown addresses the media as he announces his retirement from football at Gillette Stadium in Foxborough, Mass., Thursday, Sept. 25, 2008.

"I can't think of anything better in life to do than to enjoy a Sunday afternoon playing football," Brown said Thursday, "and now I enjoy those Sunday afternoons watching football and still saying in my head, `I can make that play.' "

But at 37, the soft-spoken Brown, who hasn't played this season, conceded, "You can't outrun Father Time," and so he announced his retirement while fighting back tears. "It's just kind of hard to let it go."

In the front row, Brown's 10-year-old son Sir'mon cried during the news conference as his mother, Kim, and 8-year-old brother SaanJay sat beside him.

Bill Belichick, the dour coach, seemed to choke up as he recalled highlights of Brown's career, some of which were shown on a screen behind Brown.

Then there was Brown's 82-yard touchdown catch in overtime that beat Miami 19-13 in 2003.

"Nobody thought that Troy could go deep. Nobody thought that he could make the big plays," Belichick said. "But all he did was make plays, just kept making them."

And when the Patriots needed help in their injured secondary, Brown filled in there in 2004 and intercepted three passes after learning enough about the Patriots' complicated defense.

"I couldn't go play wide receiver," safety Rodney Harrison said.

One of Brown's proudest accomplishments is that he spent his entire career with the Patriots even though they allowed him to become an unrestricted free agent after four different

6,366 yards receiving to Stanley Morgan's 10,352. Brown played in one Pro Bowl after the 2001 season.

"I remember several times in the staff meetings we talked about getting rid of him," said Cleveland coach Romeo Crennel, the Patriots defensive coordinator from 2001-04, "but you never could."

Brown was primarily a kickoff and punt returner in his first four seasons, catching a total of 37 passes and never starting a game. In 1997, he started six games and finished with 41 receptions. He caught 83 passes in 2000, then set a single-season team record in 2001 with 101 catches. Wes Welker broke that last season with 112.

Robert Kraft bought the team one year after Brown joined it.

"Troy Brown," he said, "is

Brown thanked Belichick "for giving me that opportunity to be somebody that everybody said I wasn't going to be, and that was a starting receiver in this league."

As the news conference was ending, Brown's son Sir'mon asked the final question.

"If you love the game so much," he wanted to know, "why are you retiring?"

Brown paused, made eye contact with his son and said: "I would love to keep playing, but there comes a time when the man upstairs called God, you can't outrun him as much as you try to and want to. He just catches up to you and tells you that you're 37 years old."

Then, he told his son, "It's a sad day for me, too. I saw you out there crying for me and I love you and it's going to be OK."

Kim builds a 4-shot lead at Tour Championship

ATLANTA (AP)—Four days after Anthony Kim humbled Sergio Garcia in the Ryder Cup, he beat 29 players just as badly Thursday at the Tour Championship.

Showing no effects of a Ryder Cup hangover, Kim fired off eight birdies on his way to a 6-under 64 in his Tour Championship debut to build a four-shot lead over Masters champion Trevor Immelman, Ernie Els and Phil Mickelson.

Kim and the other nine Americans from the winning team rarely got through a hole without hearing someone in the gallery congratulate them on their 16 1/2-11 1/2 victory over Europe on Sunday. Kim was smiling just as wide as he did Thursday.

"I feel like when I'm happy, having a good time, I'm going to make some birdies," he said. "So it was a good vibe out there."

Vijay Singh wasn't feeling it.

He only has to complete all four rounds at East Lake to capture the FedEx Cup, and that might have been the best part of his opening round at East Lake—he finished. But he started poorly, 5 over through 11 holes, before settling for a 73.

Kenny Perry, the Kentucky hero from the Ryder Cup, also found little reason to smile. He opened with a 76, and while that won't take away from his memories of red, white and blue, what irritated him was a pink slip.

It was his summons for drug testing, the second of the year for the 48-year-old Perry.

Good thing the 23-year-old Kim had four days to try to get the Ryder Cup out of his system. He was the life of the party Sunday night, especially after his 5-and-4 victory over Garcia in which Kim made birdie or better on six of his 14 holes.

"Just trying to enjoy the moment," he said. "This Ryder Cup hangover doesn't feel as bad as a college hangover."

As well as he played at the Ryder Cup on a Valhalla course with soft greens and minimal rough, Kim was equally spectacular on an East Lake course that was tough as ever.

Golf balls disappeared in Bermuda rough that was only 2 inches deep. The real challenge was getting the ball close to the cup on greens that were rebuilt in the spring. It usually takes a few years for new greens to settle, making them particularly firm. Add to that gusts up to 15 mph on a warm, dry afternoon and it's no wonder only five players broke par.

K.J. Choi was the other with a 1-under 69.

The real marvel was Kim posting eight birdies in his round of 64 in his Tour Championship debut. He attributes most of that to a simple fix in his putting before he teed off.

"It was the most basic thing you can think - keep you eye on the ball," Kim said. "Now that I've got that under control, I'm going to try to make some more putts."

He didn't have to make them from very far.

Kim hit sand wedge to 2 feet on the third hole and to 3 feet on the fourth. The longest putt he made came from just behind the 11th green when he knocked in a 25-footer to start building a gap between him and the rest of the field that made it to the final event in the PGA Tour Playoffs.

"I didn't really know what score was out there," Kim said. "I had heard the greens were really receptive last year, so I didn't know what to expect. And obviously, it took me a couple of days to get over that celebration that we had on Sunday night, so I wasn't expecting too much. Just taking what the course gave me."

What was so tough about that American party?

"I did a lot of reading that night," Kim said, smiling. "My eyes were tired."

The drama is gone from the FedEx Cup—Singh made sure of that with two victories—but perhaps there is one race that could come down to the wire.

Mickelson has a chance to win the Vardon Trophy for the lowest adjusted scoring average, and at 69.52 he leads Garcia (69.53) by one-hundredth of a point. Mickelson at least needs to finish ahead of the Spaniard to capture his first major award on the PGA Tour.

Kim, however, is one-tenth of a point behind at 69.62. Scoring averages cannot be computed until the end of the week, because scores are adjusted based on the average field score for the tournament.

"It would be cool," Mickelson said when asked about the Vardon Trophy. "I don't really understand the mathematics of the scoring average, because it's not really your score."

But he understood a 68 and was pleased with it.

Mickelson made the turn at 4 under thanks to some putting that has been missing most of the year. One errant shot struck a small girl in the knee, and before Mickelson could check on her, his caddie brought some levity to the moment.

"Have you seen our Crowne Plaza commercials?" he said, referring to one scene when Mickelson meets with various fans he has hit in the gallery over the years.

Kim hit mainly fairways and greens, and he took only 26 putts for to match his lowest scores of the year and post his fifth consecutive round in the 60s on the PGA Tour. He played with Mike Weir (70), who watched some of the Ryder Cup on Sunday. He was asked if he saw any of Kim's match against Garcia.

"I saw the start," Weir said. "He got off to a great start."

Four days later, Kim hasn't slowed a bit.

Rays' AL East title delayed by loss to Tigers

DETROIT (AP) — The Tampa Bay Rays' bid for their first American League division crown was delayed by a 7-5 loss to the Detroit Tigers on Thursday.

Having already secured no worse than a wild-card berth, the Rays would have clinched the American League East division with a victory. Their first title would be assured if second-place Boston lost to Cleveland later Thursday.

Scott Kazmir (12-8) allowed four homers, two to Ramon Santiago, and six hits in five innings, struck out eight and walked two. He allowed four homers for the second time in three starts—the only times he's allowed four in a game in his career.

Ben Zobrist homered twice and had four RBIs for the Rays, headed to their first playoff appearance.

The game drew 36,259, raising the Tigers' home season total to a team record 3,081,098, just ahead of the previous mark of 3,047,139, set last year.

Red Sox 6, Indians 1

At Boston, Jon Lester flirted with a no-hitter in his final tuneup before the playoffs, allowing two hits over six innings for Boston.

Kevin Youkilis was 2-for-3 with his 28th homer for the Red Sox, who retained a mathematical chance of winning the AL East—if they win their last three games of the season and Tampa Bay loses its last three.

Lester, who threw a no-hitter against Kansas City on May 19, missed the chance to become the fifth pitcher in history with two in a season when Josh Barfield lined a clean double to left to lead off the sixth. Lester (16-6) also gave up an RBI single to Jamey Carroll.

Blue Jays 8, Yankees 2

At Toronto, Roy Halladay pitched his major league-leading ninth complete game to become the AL's second 20-game winner as Toronto downed New York.

Vernon Wells homered and drove in four runs as the Blue Jays snapped New York's seven-game winning streak.

Halladay (20-11) improved to 5-1 in six starts against the Yankees this season and posted his second career 20-win season. The right-hander went 22-7 with nine complete games in 2003, when he won the AL Cy Young pitching award.

Halladay, who joined Cleveland's Cliff Lee as a 20-game winner, gave up two runs and six hits. He walked one and struck out five, giving him 206 for the season, a career-high.

Wells hit a two-run homer in the third and added a two-run single in the fourth.

Twins 7, White Sox 6, 10 innings

At Minneapolis, Alexi Casilla singled in the winning run in the 10th inning and Minnesota completed its three-game sweep of Chicago that moved the Twins into first place in the AL Central.

Casilla's soft hit into short center off Bobby Jenks (3-1) scored Nick Punto and led to a wild celebration on the field at the Metrodome as the Twins moved one-half game in front of the White Sox.

Joe Nathan (1-2) pitched two perfect innings for the victory, part of a Minnesota bullpen that totaled 6 1-3 scoreless innings and surrendered only two hits.

Carlos Gomez made up for a costly defensive mistake during a six-run fourth by the White Sox—who knocked Twins starter Kevin Slowey out that inning with an injured wrist—with four hits and two RBIs.

Angels 6, Mariners 4

At Seattle, Vladimir Guerrero hit two home runs—including a two-run shot in the ninth inning—and Los Angeles downed Seattle to move closer to securing home field throughout the playoffs.

Mark Teixeira had a one-out single off J.J. Putz (6-5) in the ninth. Guerrero then hit the first pitch from Putz into the bullpen in left for his 27th home run and his 36th multihomer game.

With the victory, Los Angeles (99-60) closed in on the best record in the American League and home-field advantage. Tampa Bay (96-63), which lost to Detroit 7-5 on Thursday, is three games back with three to play.

The Angels matched the franchise record for wins in a season, set by the 2002 team that won the World Series, and extended the franchise record for road wins with 50.

Jose Arredondo (10-2), who allowed a tying two-run homer to Yuniesky Betancourt in the seventh, was the winner.

Padres 7, Dodgers 5

At Los Angeles, the Dodgers clinched their first National League West championship in four years Thursday without lifting a bat.

Entering the day with a magic number of one, the Dodgers got what they needed when second-place Arizona lost 12-3 at St. Louis. That was several hours before Brian Giles and Adrian Gonzalez homered and Luis Rodriguez had four hits to lead San Diego to a meaningless 7-5 victory over the Dodgers in their final home game of the regular season.

The Dodgers have won just one postseason game since winning the World Series 20 years ago, going 1-12 in four playoff appearances.

The Dodgers were in trouble after losing their eighth straight game Aug. 29, a 9-3 setback at Arizona that gave the Diamondbacks a 4 1/2-game lead in the division. But with inseason acquisition Manny Ramirez leading the way, they turned things around and won 18 of 23 games—including five straight over the Diamondbacks.

Ramirez is hitting .393 with 17 homers and 53 RBIs in 51 games with the Dodgers.

Jake Peavy (10-11) allowing three runs in five innings for the win and Trevor Hoffman worked a hitless ninth for his 29th save.

Cardinals 12, Diamondbacks 3

At St. Louis, the Diamondbacks' loss to St. Louis ended Arizona's playoffs chances.

Arizona (79-80) led the division by 4 1/2 games before play on Aug. 29, then lost 11 of 14 as Los Angeles took control of the NL West. The Diamondbacks won seven of eight to regain some faint hope before dropping their final three games in a four-game series against the Cardinals.

Albert Pujols had a three-run homer and four RBIs to back Joel Pineiro (7-7), who allowed three runs and three hits over seven innings. St. Louis had been eliminated from postseason contention on Tuesday.

Arizona's Mark Reynolds set a major league record when he struck out twice, raising his season total to 201. Philadelphia's Ryan Howard set the previous mark of 199 last year. Howard began the day with 196 this season.

Pujols (35) and Ryan Ludwick (36) hit consecutive homers in a five-run seventh that opened an 11-3 lead.

Brewers 5, Pirates 1, 10 innings

At Milwaukee, Ryan Braun hit a grand slam in the 10th inning and Milwaukee finished a sweep of Pittsburgh to remain tied with New York in the NL wild-card race.

Rickie Weeks led off the 10th with a single off reliever Jesse Chavez. After a sacrifice bunt, the Pirates walked Ray Durham intentionally. Chavez (0-1) struck out Mike Cameron, but walked pinch-hitter Craig Counsell to load the bases.

Braun homered deep to left field, his 36th of the season.

Mets 7, Cubs 6

At New York, Carlos Beltran singled home the winning run with two outs in the ninth and New York rallied for the win over Chicago that kept it tied for the wild-card lead.

After trailing by three runs in the seventh, New York fought back in the rain to move within one game of NL East-leading Philadelphia with three to play.

Lightly used rookie Micah Hoffpauir went 5-for-5 with five RBIs and his first two major league homers—including a tiebreaking shot in the seventh off Ricardo Rincon that gave Chicago a 6-3 lead.

New York tied it in the eighth on hits by Ramon Martinez and third-string catcher Robinson Cancel.

Astros 8, Reds 6

At Houston, Roy Oswalt allowed two hits and struck out three in six innings to keep Houston barely alive for the wild card.

The Astros remained 3 1/2 games behind New York and Milwaukee. One more Houston loss or victory by either the Mets or Brewers will eliminate the Astros.

Michael Bourn matched a career high with four RBIs and Oswalt added an RBI single as the Astros beat the Reds for the 12th time in 15 meetings. Oswalt (17-10), pitching on three days' rest, improved to 11-2 in his last 13 decisions. He has won 23 of 24 decisions against Cincinnati.

Oswalt breezed after giving up a solo homer to Corey Patterson in the first. Patterson's 10th home run of the season was only the second allowed by Oswalt in his last seven starts.

Rockies 3, Giants 1

At San Francisco, Clint Barmes homered for the second straight game, pitcher Jorge De La Rosa hit an RBI single and Colorado completed a three-game sweep of San Francisco.

De La Rosa (10-8) struck out seven and gave up three hits in seven scoreless innings to win his second straight start, retiring the final 11 batters he faced and 17 of his last 19.

Barry Zito (10-17) struck out six and walked four over eight innings in the $126 million left-hander's last start of the season. After beginning the year 0-8, Zito won four of his final six decisions.

TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES

MLB STANDINGS

AMERICAN LEAGUE

East Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
y-Tampa Bay	96	63	.604	–
y-Boston	94	65	.591	2
New York	87	72	.547	9
Toronto	84	75	.528	12
Baltimore	67	91	.424	28 1/2

Central Division

Minnesota	87	72	.547	–
Chicago	86	72	.544	1/2
Cleveland	79	80	.497	8
Kansas City	73	86	.459	14
Detroit	72	86	.456	14 1/2

West Division

x-Los Angeles	99	60	.623	–
Texas	77	82	.484	22
Oakland	75	83	.475	23 1/2
Seattle	58	101	.365	41

NATIONAL LEAGUE

East Division

Philadelphia	89	70	.560	–
New York	88	71	.553	1
Florida	82	76	.519	6 1/2
Atlanta	71	88	.447	18
Washington	59	99	.373	29 1/2

Central Division

x-Chicago	96	62	.608	–
Milwaukee	88	71	.553	8 1/2
Houston	84	74	.532	12
St. Louis	83	76	.522	13 1/2
Cincinnati	74	85	.465	22 1/2
Pittsburgh	65	94	.409	31 1/2

West Division

x-Los Angeles	83	76	.522	–
Arizona	79	80	.497	4
Colorado	74	85	.465	9
San Francisco	70	89	.440	13
San Diego	62	97	.390	21

x-clinched division
y-clinched playoff spot

Yesterday's Games

St. Louis 12, Arizona 3
N.Y. Mets 7, Chicago Cubs 6
Florida at Washington, ccd., rain
Houston 8, Cincinnati 6
Milwaukee 5, Pittsburgh 1, 10 innings
Colorado 3, San Francisco 1
San Diego 7, L.A. Dodgers 5
Detroit 7, Tampa Bay 5
Boston 6, Cleveland 1
Toronto 8, N.Y. Yankees 2
Minnesota 7, Chicago White Sox 6, 10 innings
L.A. Angels 6, Seattle 4

TOUR CHAMPIONSHIP SCORES

ATLANTA (AP)–Scores Thursday from the U.S. Tour Championship, a $7 million (4.8 million) U.S. PGA Tour event at the 7,304-yard, par-70 East Lake Golf Club:

FIRST ROUND

Anthony Kim	32-32	64
Ernie Els	35-33	68
Trevor Immelman	34-34	68
Phil Mickelson	31-37	68
K.J. Choi	33-36	69
Mike Weir	33-37	70
Sergio Garcia	37-33	70
Bubba Watson	37-34	71
D.J. Trahan	35-36	71
Kevin Sutherland	36-35	71
Ben Curtis	36-35	71
Chad Campbell	38-34	72
Billy Mayfair	34-38	72
Stuart Appleby	37-35	72
Jim Furyk	33-39	72
Camilo Villegas	37-35	72
Andres Romero	37-36	73
Dudley Hart	35-38	73
Justin Leonard	34-39	73
Vijay Singh	39-34	73
Briny Baird	37-37	74
Hunter Mahan	37-37	74
Steve Stricker	35-39	74
Ryuji Imada	39-36	75
Robert Allenby	39-36	75
Stewart Cink	36-39	75
Carl Pettersson	38-38	76
Kenny Perry	37-39	76
Ken Duke	39-38	77
Tim Clark	41-37	78

BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

ACME

From Page 28

But Karakuchi is in second after scoring more points, 58, as against the 54 of third-running Off Twice.

Thai One On recovered from a first set loss before easily taking the last two sets for an 18-21, 21-10, 21-14 win over MHS Oakies.

Four teams are currently locked with 1-1 slates, including Thai One On, MHS Oakies, Enyophace, and MHS Peers.

Following their defeat in the opening round to Off Twice, MHS Peers bounced back against Kimoichi in straight sets, 21-13, 22-20, 21-18.

MHS Peers are bannered by Tamino Nartin, Frandolee Tito, Azumi Ishida, Thedora Lizama, Joemil Lisua, and Jeff Bacani.

Despite the loss to Acme Roofing, Enyophace is the current leader in most points scored after two outings with 118. Acme Roofing has 109, Thai On One compiled 108, MHS Peers 103, and MHS Oakis 102.

Kimoichi further skidded to 10th place with 0-2.

The only team which did see action is MHS Serves Up!. It will begin its campaign against Thai On One on Sept. 30.

Champ On and MHS 67 Doh-Fins have similar 0-1 markings.

Games are being played every Teusday and Thursday at the PIC beach volleyball court starting at 5:30pm.

BANZAI

From Page 28

munity the past two years.

POWERade is the main sponsor for this year's event. The other corporate donors are Coca-Cola, Foremost, Subway, Glimpses, *Beach Road Magazine*, PTI, Taga Inc., Tagaman, Saipan XTERRA, Pacific Islands Club, The Athlete's Foot, All-Star Sports, JG Sablan Ice & Water, Michelob Ultra, Wear-A-Marconi, musician John Jenkins, and www.shopmarianas.com.

Marianas Visitors Authority is also a major supporter of the event.

Ruszala said members of the Marianas High School's National Honor Society would volunteer their services to help make the event a successful one.

"I'm expecting to see about 30 of them out there helping out tomorrow (today)," said Ruszala.

Taga Inc. also became a part of the race this year by donating the use of their official time clock. "Previously we were using only stopwatches to track all of our finishers," explained Ruszala.

He said Taga Inc. would be at Banzai Cliff selling all sorts of gear from Tagaman and XTERRA Saipan Championship at 25 percent off their retail price, which he said would be a great deal for local racers looking to get quality gear from our local races.

As for volunteering, "we've got aid stations and people directing the runners along the course"

Ruszala said "it is easy to be a volunteer and it's great knowing that you're a part of the race without having to run!"

Tinian takes down Saipan's finest

By BRAD E. RUSZALA
SPECIAL TO THE SAIPAN TRIBUNE

It didn't take long for the pride of Tinian to take down five of Saipan's pigskin prognosticators as Keith Nabors bested the quintuplets from across the channel with a dominating performance in Week 3 of Miller Lite's Pigskin Picks.

Nabors came up big, scoring a 14-2 record, after missing out on a close game and an unlikely upset. The Jacksonville Jaguars had looked average at best this year, with losses at Tennessee and Buffalo, but those losses came by a total of 11 points.

The 0-2 Jaguars were looking far worse for their ware than Peyton Manning's Indianapolis Colts, but David Garrard and company marched into Lucas Oil Stadium and notched their first win of the season against the favorites.

The outcome shouldn't be too surprising to football fans because the Jags have played the Colts closely in recent years. Indianapolis swept the Jags last year and owns the series history at 11-3, but it was Jacksonville which thumped the Colts during Peyton's Super Bowl run despite allowing him 313 yards through the air.

Who would expect the Colts to lose when Marvin Harrison and Reggie Wayne total for 211 yards? Not me. The problem was that Manning didn't throw any touchdowns. Oh, that and the Jaguars racked up 375 yards of offense…on the ground! I guess that helps.

Last week the Jags piled up 236 yards on the ground and amassed 403 yards of offense across the board while Manning passed for 216 yards, connected with Harrison for a touchdown, and threw two interceptions.

Yep, the running game is important, just ask the Miami Dolphins. One of the worst teams in football coming off one of the worst seasons in league history ran all over the Brady-less New England Patriots to the tune of a 38-13 beatdown in Foxboro.

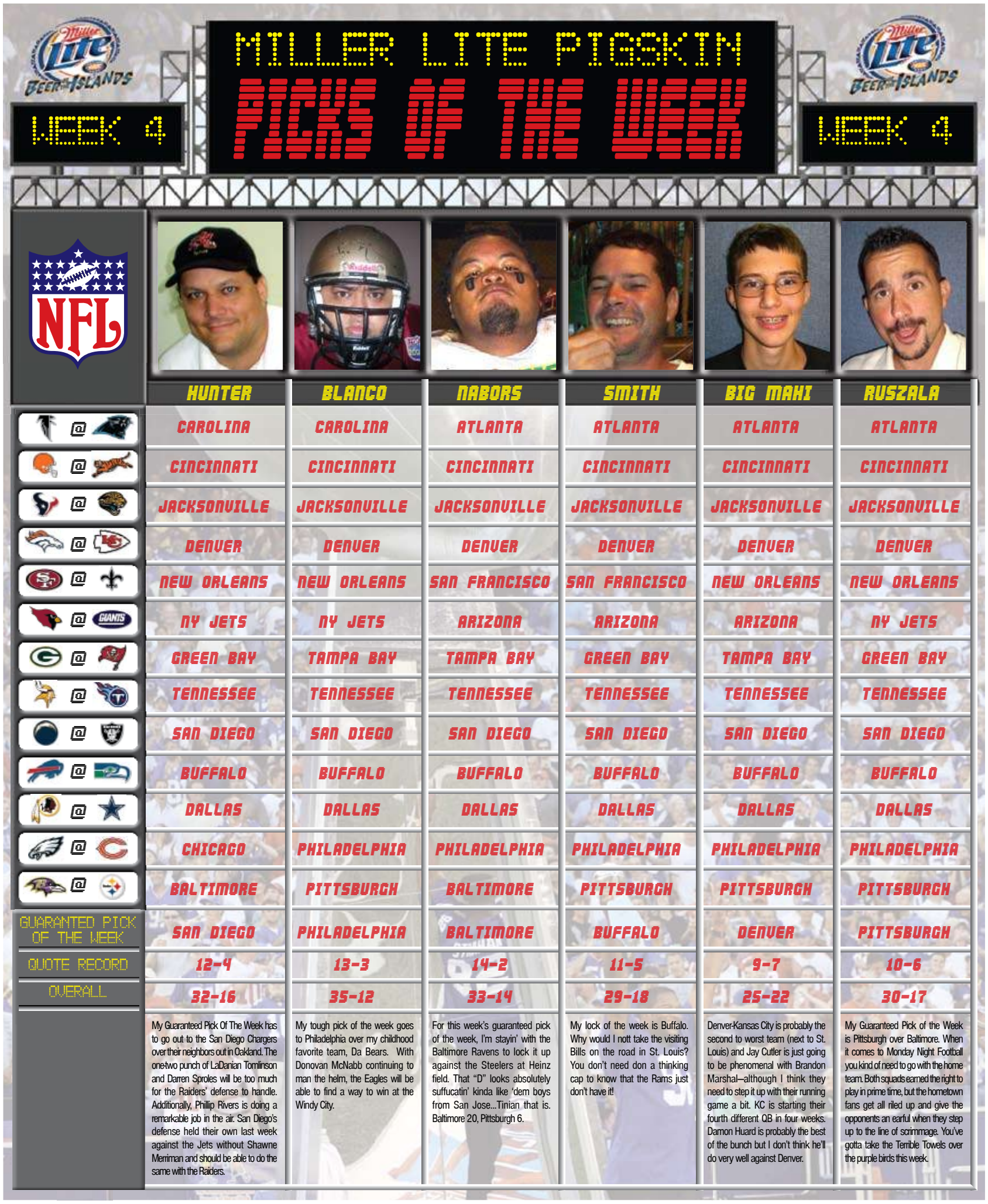
Ronnie Brown and Ricky Williams blew up the Patriots defense with 211 yards on the ground, but Brown was the impact player that made the New England defenders wondering what hit them on their home turf.

All it took was one play for Brown to hammer the aging Patriots. Ronnie Brown lined up behind the center while quarterback Chad Pennington took the slot receiver's position on the line. Seems easy enough, right? Nope. Not for the Patriots.

Brown took the snap four times and rushed into the end zone four times. Not too shabby, but wait, there's more! Brown also took the snap a fifth time and passed for a touchdown when he found tight end Anthony Fasano for the 19-yard score.

What a difference a season makes. Some might argue that the Pats aren't the same without Brady, but Tom Brady wasn't playing defense for the Patriots. Tom Brady wasn't on the sidelines calling the shots as the defensive coordinator. Tom Brady wasn't even wearing a ratty looking hoodie on the sidelines. Nope, that was supposed to be super coach, Bill Belichick.

I can't complain. The loss dropped the Pats to 2-1 and gave the Buffalo Bills sole possession of first place in the AFC East. What? I better go and check to make sure that there isn't ice forming on Lake Susupe.


MILLER LITE PIGSKIN
PICKS OF THE WEEK
WEEK 4
WEEK 4
NFL
HUNTER
BLANCO
NABORS
SMITH
BIG MAHI
RUSZALA
CAROLINA
CAROLINA
ATLANTA
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BALTIMORE
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GUARANTED PICK OF THE WEEK
SAN DIEGO
PHILADELPHIA
BALTIMORE
BUFFALO
DENVER
PITTSBURGH
QUOTE RECORD
12-4
13-3
14-2
11-5
9-7
10-6
OVERALL
32-16
35-12
33-14
29-18
25-22
30-17
My Guaranteed Pick Of The Week has to go out to the San Diego Chargers over their neighbors out in Oakland. The one-two punch of LaDanian Tomlinson and Darren Sproles will be too much for the Raiders' defense to handle. Additionally, Phillip Rivers is doing a remarkable job in the air. San Diego's defense held their own last week against the Jets without Shawne Merriman and should be able to do the same with the Raiders.
My tough pick of the week goes to Philadelphia over my childhood favorite team, Da Bears. With Donovan McNabb continuing to man the helm, the Eagles will be able to find a way to win at the Windy City.
For this week's guaranteed pick of the week, I'm stayin' with the Baltimore Ravens to lock it up against the Steelers at Heinz field. That "D" looks absolutely suffucatin' kinda like 'dem boys from San Jose...Tinian that is. Baltimore 20, Pittsburgh 6.
My lock of the week is Buffalo. Why would I nott take the visiting Bills on the road in St. Louis? You don't need don a thinking cap to know that the Rams just don't have it!
Denver-Kansas City is probably the second to worst team (next to St. Louis) and Jay Cutler is just going to be phenomenal with Brandon Marshal–although I think they need to step it up with their running game a bit. KC is starting their fourth different QB in four weeks. Damon Huard is probably the best of the bunch but I don't think he'll do very well against Denver.
My Guaranteed Pick of the Week is Pittsburgh over Baltimore. When it comes to Monday Night Football you kind of need to go with the home team. Both squads earned the right to play in prime time, but the hometown fans get all riled up and give the opponents an earful when they step up to the line of scrimmage. You've gotta take the Terrible Towels over the purple birds this week.

MOMENT

From Page 28

the 135-lb. division for the preliminary bout starting at 7pm.

Teregoyo will face "No" Angel Santos while Fujihara will test Gregory Camacho. Both Santos and Camacho have 0-1 records.

In the 130-lb. bout, Roman "Boom" Alvarez of Trench Tech will also debut against Raegan Mality (0-1) of Team Pwang.

In the 125 lbs., Jess Santos (0-1) of Team Predators takes on another newcomer Eric Torres of Trench Tech, while in the 135 lbs., Jerold Michael debuts against Alverick "Pretty Boy" Alvarez (1-0) of Trench Tech.

One of the most experienced fighters in the fold will be Shane "Pika Boo" Alvarez of Trench Tech who has a clean 3-0 record.

Pika Boo will be fighting at 130 lbs. against 133-pounder Sefich Lorenzo, who is also trying to gain experience.

Another Trench Tech fighter with a lighter weight of 150 lbs. T.J. "Ying Yang" Castro, who has a 1-0 record, will go up against a heavier opponent in 155-lb. newcomer Joe Cabrera.

The heaviest weight class is 195 lbs. with Shawn Ogo of Team Haga meeting fellow newcomer V.J. Tenorio of Trench Tech

Completing the tentative fight cards are the following:

■ Rayson Ray (0-1), 150 lbs. vs. Fal Arriola, D.A.T. Gym (debut), 150 lbs.;

■ Martin Castro (0-2), Trench Tech, 175 lbs. vs. Chris Mers (0-2), Zalaka 150 lbs.;

■ Larry Angui (0-1), Streetfight, 180 lbs. vs. Joe Ngiraibuuch (1-0), Trench Tech, 180 lbs.;

■ Mark "The Dark" Nuque (debut) Trench Tech, 160 lbs. vs. Derrec Chen (0-1), Zalaka, 155 lbs.;

■ Ryan Ngirbabul (debut), Trench Tech, 155 lbs. vs. Sal Limes (0-1), Freestyle, 155 lbs.;

■ Bryan Castro (debut), streetfighter, 125 lbs. vs. Robert A. Baza (debut) MTM Guam;

■ Jamie Hermosila (1-0), Dry Cleaners, 140 lbs. vs. James Castro (debut), boxing, 145 lbs.;

■ Edwin "Styx" Castro Jr. (debut), 175 lbs. vs. Sanderson Sebuu (debut), Xtreme, 175 lbs.;

■ Ben Taisacan (debut), freestyle, 190 lbs. vs. Robert "Pitbull" Palacios (0-4), South Syde Syndicates, 190 lbs.; and

■ Jordan Ogo (debut), Team Haga, 128 lbs. vs. Raymond C. Deluma (debut), 125 lbs.; and

■ Dexter Tenorio (debut), Pinoy Fighter, 145 lbs. vs. Ed Palma (debut), Cagers.

Tinian takes down Saipan's finest

It didn't take long for the pride of Tinian to take down five of Saipan's pigskin prognosticators as Keith Nabors bested the quintuplets from across the channel with a dominating performance in Week 3 of Miller Lite's Pigskin Picks.

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Saipan Tribune
Sports

Record-setting Patriots WR Troy Brown retires

Troy Brown was too short and too slow. He couldn't make the big play. His NFL career was bound to be brief. Wrong. Wrong. Wrong.

25

Acme Roofing nails second victory

Nick Swaim of Thai On One scores in this play in the first set of their 18-21, 21-10, 21-14 victory over MHS Oakies last Thursday night. NAZARIO RODRIGUEZ JR.

By NAZARIO RODRIGUEZ JR.
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REPORTER

Acme Roofing nailed its second straight victory over Enyophace, 21-17, 21-17, 12-21, last Thursday night to seize the solo lead in the 2008 Miller Lite Four-Person Beach Volleyball League at the Pacific Islands Club sand courts.

The victory followed Acme Roofing's 3-1 win over Thai On One in the opening day of action last Tuesday when it overcame a first set loss to prevail in three sets, 13-21, 21-8, 21-19.

In contrast this time, the team of Larry Shari, Jazz Roscow, Rob Jordan, Luthor Taylor, J.R. Ngeskebei, Elizabeth Henke, Jenni Brown, and Dana McFadden took the first two sets for the outright win though they dropped the third set.

Acme Roofing, which scored a total of 109 points so far, will face Champ-On next Tuesday, Sept. 30.

Three other teams, Karakuchi, Thai On One, and MHS Peers, defeated their respective opponents to barge into the win column.

Karakuchi, composed of Rob Eply, Marino Pungilung, Kirk Schuler, Carie Schuler, Sujung Lee, Ann Munoz, Macoi Aguda, and Bernie Tarobul, debuted with a 12-21, 21-12, 21-12 win against MHS 67 Doh-Fins, which created a two-way tie between Karakuchi and opening day winner Off Twice.

See ACME on Page 26

RGA October Qualifier this Sunday

Refaluwasch Golf Association will hold its October Ace of the Month Qualifier this Sunday, Sept. 28, at the Coral Ocean Point Golf Resort.

Tournament director Jess Wabol set a check-in time of 11am with tee off scheduled an hour later at 12pm.

Wabol also reminded Ace of the Month winners that they need to have played in a minimum of six tournaments (including qualifiers) in order to qualify for the yearend RGA Club Championship.

He said only three monthly championships—October, November, and December—remain before RGA's yearend Club Championship set on Dec. 6 at the Coral Ocean Point Golf Resort in Koblerville. The Club Championship assembles all 12 monthly champions, provided they qualify.

In related news, RGA will hold its Family Fun Day on Dec. 13 at a still unspecified venue.

For more information about RGA and the rest of its events in the 2008 calendar, contact Wabol at 233-3673 or RGA president Adam Hardwicke at 483-2926. ***(RGA)***

Moment of truth for MMA fighters tonight

By NAZARIO RODRIGUEZ JR.
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REPORTER

NAZARIO RODRIGUEZ JR.
Trench Tech Inc. president and promoter Justis "Cuki" Alvarez, second from right, assists two mixed martial art fighters as they register before the weigh-in yesterday afternoon at the Trench Tech Gym for tonight's Rites of Passage 5: Raging Warriors.

It will be the moment of truth for mixed martial arts fighters at the Trench Tech Gym in Afetnas tonight.

A total of 40 fighters will be featured in the Rites of Passage V: Raging Warriors, with over half of them seeing action for the first time inside the octagon cage.

The pairings were still being finalized but promoter Justis "Cuki" Alvarez said the event is definitely ready.

However, there might be changes in the original parings that were released earlier.

The tentative schedule for the total 20 bouts include the main event between Derick "Pinchi" Rangamar of Marianas Elite and Chris "No Luv" Laayug of Trench Tech in the 140-lb. weight class.

Laayug has a slight edge with his 3-1 win-loss record while Rangamar (2-2) is aiming to pullout an upset.

Jayson Teregoyo and Jerome Fujihara of Trench Tech will be debuting in their first cage fights against separate opponents in

See MOMENT on Page 27

Banzai Half Marathon starts early this morning

By NAZARIO RODRIGUEZ JR.
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REPORTER

Excitement is brewing as organizers hope to draw around 200 runners to join today's 3rd Annual PowerAde Banzai Memorial Half Marathon and Fun Run at the Banzai Cliff in Marpi.

Northern Marianas Islands Triathlon Federation member Brad Ruszala said they are ready to hold the event, which will be for the benefit of a community sports club association in the CNMI.

Recipients from the first two years were the Saipan Swim Club and Northern Marianas Athletics.

Participants need to register at 5:30am with a fee of $10.

The half marathon race will start at 6am, while the fun run begins at 7am.

The first 100 finishers to get t-shirts. There will also be lots of prizes to be won in the raffle.

Ruszala said they have been getting bigger support from the com-

See BANZAI on Page 26